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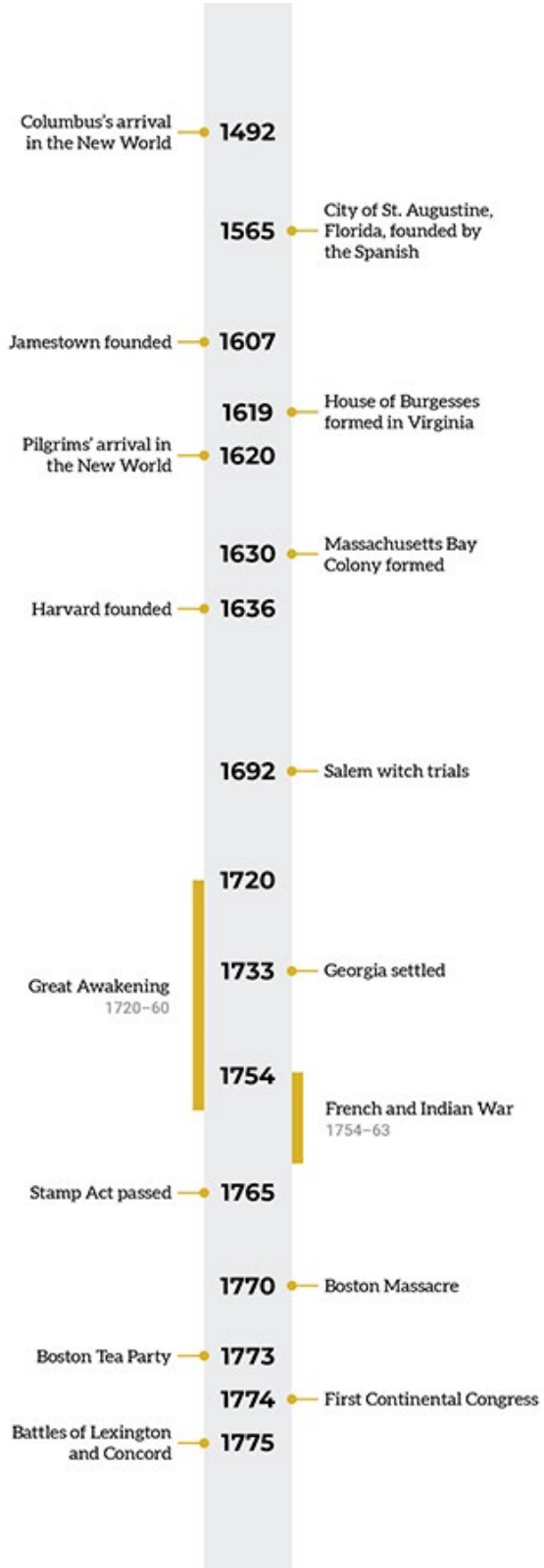
# 1

## Settling a Wilderness

- 1 AMERICA, EUROPE, AND AFRICA BEFORE 1620
- 2 SETTLING THE THIRTEEN COLONIES
- 3 EXPANSION AND ESTABLISHMENT
- 4 DAILY LIFE IN THE COLONIES
- 5 CONFLICT IN THE COLONIES



Native American observes  
Henry Hudson's ship entering  
New York Harbor, 1609.







- ▲ Amazon rainforest, Brazil
- ◀ Jacques Cartier claims Canada for France.

There is a land of mystery, a land of hieroglyphics and mummies. Above the mist rise pyramids and colossal statues carved from huge, imported boulders. Here the people worship the sun god and believe in the underworld. But this is not Egypt.



- ▲ Mayan hieroglyphics

## 1.1 EARLY AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS

What were the cultures of the Americas like before Europeans arrived?

It is uncertain how and when the first people arrived in North and South America. After the confusing of languages at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11, people scattered across the earth. Perhaps they crossed a land bridge that linked Asia to Alaska. Perhaps they sailed across the waters or down the coast. Regardless of their route, they clearly lived in the Americas long before the Europeans came.

Spread out across North and South America, these indigenous (original or native) groups were divided into hundreds of clans, or tribes, each with its own language, lifestyle, and chief. Some were **nomadic**, constantly on the move in search of game (wild animals hunted for food) and wild plants. Other groups settled and raised crops. Tribes lived in different kinds of shelters, movable or permanent, depending on their way of life.

### Civilizations of Central and South America

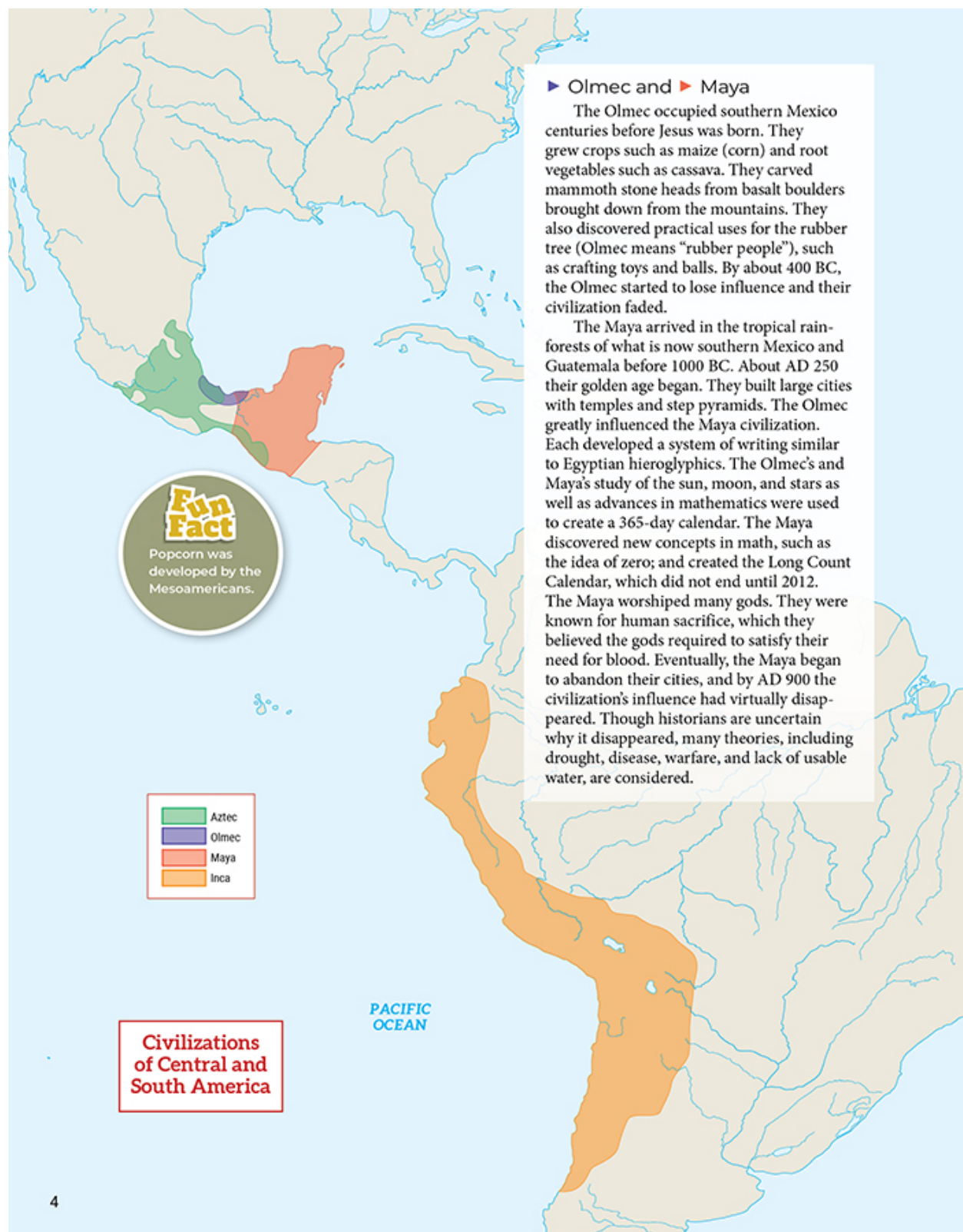
In Mesoamerica (present-day Mexico and Central America) and South America, several groups built large civilizations before Europeans arrived, living in cities and developing specialized skills. These groups constructed canals, stone pyramids, and elaborate road networks.

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What were the civilizations of Central and South America like before the arrival of Europeans?
- What were North American Indians like?
- What were the cultures and religions of Native American civilizations?

- ▼ Mayan temple in Mexico







### ► Aztec

The Aztec civilization in Mexico developed later than the Olmec and Maya civilizations. Founded in the AD 1200s, the Aztec civilization was a warrior empire. The Aztecs built a large city, Tenochtitlan, from drained swamp land. Today it is the site of Mexico City. The Aztecs used advanced methods of irrigation for agriculture. Their religion mimicked the human sacrifices of the Maya and frequently included the removal of the heart, often performed at the top of a pyramid built for that purpose.

The Aztec empire was still expanding under the leader Montezuma when it was overthrown by the Spanish **conquistadors** (conquerors). Through warfare and diseases for which the Aztecs had no immunity, the Aztec population shrank to roughly half between 1519 and 1521. Their great numbers of people and skill at fighting were no match for Spanish weapons.

### ► Inca

The Incan empire extended in a long, narrow strip along the western side of South America. Existing during the same general time period as the Aztecs, the Inca built astounding architectural works in hard-to-reach places like the mountaintop ceremonial city of Machu Picchu. They built many other cities linked by a complex network of roads.

A decade after the fall of the Aztecs, this civilization was also devastated by the conquistadors. Francisco Pizarro, the cousin of Aztec conqueror Hernando Cortés, desired the famous Incan gold. He kidnapped the ruler and later executed him. Though the Inca fought back, Spanish weapons were again superior, and soon the Spanish took over the empire. Smallpox killed millions more in this diverse empire.

### ▼ Machu Picchu



### the ICE MAIDEN

In 1995, the best-preserved mummy in the world was discovered when the body of a twelve- or thirteen-year-old frozen girl tumbled down the side of a dormant volcano in Peru. She lived more than five hundred years ago, during the 1400s. Incan human sacrifice was somewhat different from that of the Maya and Aztecs. The chosen children were fattened with good food and drugged with coca leaves and corn alcohol. They were then taken atop a high mountain peak and left to freeze to death in order to please the gods, hopefully resulting in good harvests. The Ice Maiden is so well preserved that her hair has been used to discover what she ate.



## The People of North America

Unlike the natives to the south, the natives of North America did not form large civilizations. In the area that became the United States, most Indians lived in small villages in several main regions: the Northwest Coast, the Great Basin and Plateau, the Southwest, the Arctic and Subarctic, the Eastern Woodlands, the Southeast, and the Great Plains.

### ▶ Northwest Coast

The Indians of the Pacific Northwest built sturdy houses from cedar in villages along the ocean, rivers, and streams. The waters supplied them with abundant food. They caught salmon from the streams and ate oysters and fish from the sea. From tall trees they carved **totem poles** that represented family history, local legends, and important events.

### ▶ Great Basin and ▶ Plateau

The Great Basin and Plateau Indians such as the Shoshone, Ute, and Nez Perce were nomadic hunter-gatherers who lived between the Rocky Mountains and the western coastal mountains. Over time many became similar to the Great Plains Indians, living in tepees and hunting bison. The climate in the Great Basin and Plateau was harsh, with land that could not be farmed, but the Indians survived by gathering wild nuts and berries, hunting for small animals, and fishing. These Indians made baskets and left behind petroglyphs, or rock drawings, that illustrate their lifestyle.

### ▶ Southwest

In what is now Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, tribes called cliff dwellers constructed elaborate houses in the sides of cliffs. Southwestern Indians were expert architects and masons. Some tribes designed homes with many rooms, like those in apartment buildings, and made houses with adobe, a dried clay-and-straw mixture. Navajo often lived in hogans, houses made of logs and earth. Southwestern Indian tribes such as the Pueblo, Apache, Hopi, and Navajo farmed the desert, gathered wild plants, and hunted small animals. Southwestern tribes are well-known for their beautiful turquoise jewelry, pottery, and woven goods.



#### Did you know?

In reality, the "low man on the totem pole" was the most important of all!

#### Fun Fact

Northwest Indians used the inside bark of cedar trees to make raincoats.

#### Did you know?

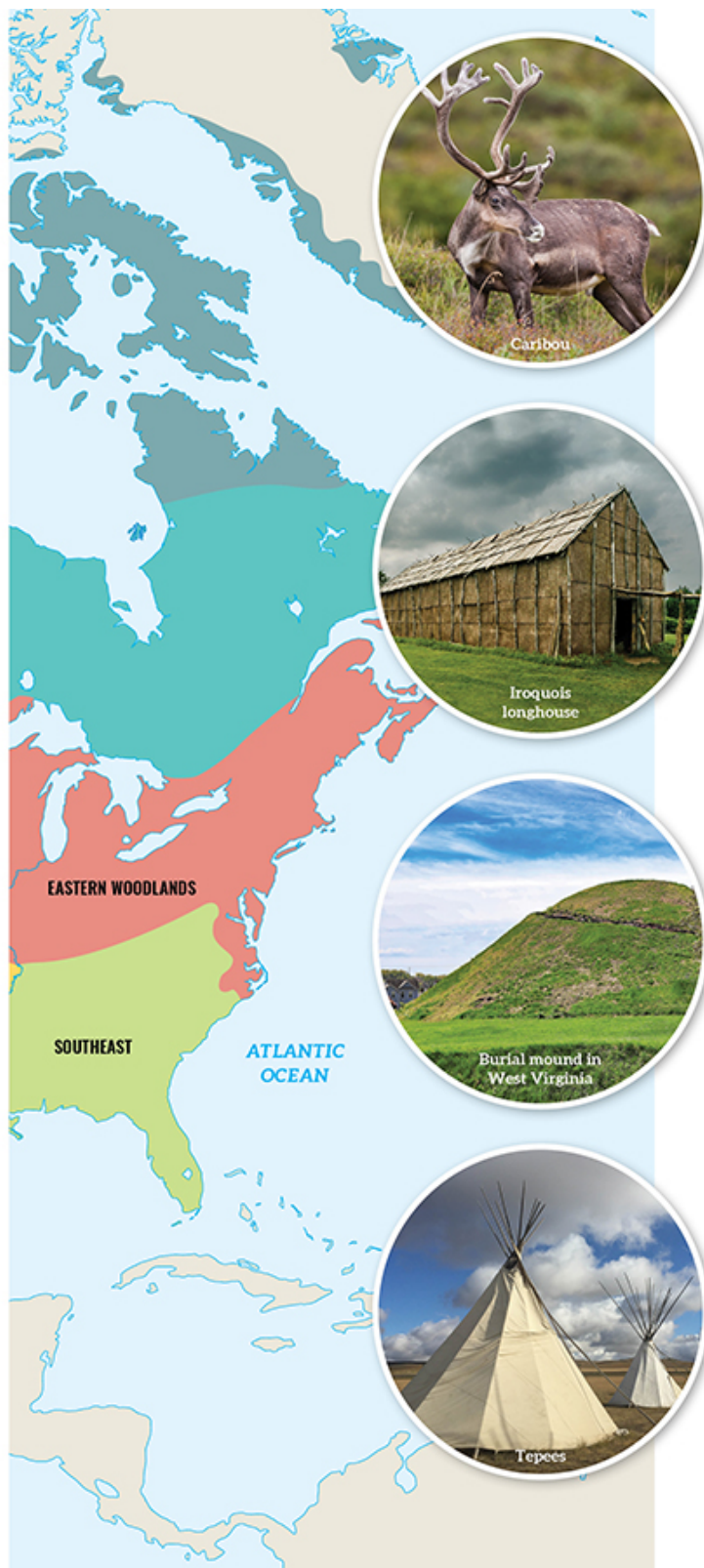
The animals referred to as *buffalo* in America are actually bison and live only in North America. True buffalo live in Africa and Asia.



Petroglyphs







### ▶ Arctic and ▶ Subarctic

The Inuit settled the frigid regions of Canada, Alaska, and Greenland near the Arctic Circle. Adapting to the cold climate, they were skilled at using what was available. Snow and ice blocks were used to form igloos. Caribou (reindeer), whales, seals, and walrus were hunted for food and clothing, and whale oil was burned for light. Small boats and kayaks were also made from the skins of hunted animals.

### ▶ Eastern Woodlands

The Woodland Indians lived in the East, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. In addition to hunting and fishing, tribes such as the Algonquian and Huron planted maize, squash, and tobacco. Because they had stable sources of food, they built permanent villages. Many lived in wigwams, which were dome shaped and covered with leaves, bark, or animal skins. Some tribes, such as the Iroquois, built longhouses—large, rectangular dwellings that housed extended families. The Iroquois were later responsible for forming a tribal alliance called the Iroquois League of Five Nations.

### ▶ Southeast

In the Ohio Valley and in the Southeast lived the mound builders. Mounds were made of earth and could be used as tombs or for religious ceremonies. The Great Serpent Mound in Ohio is the largest earthworks mound in the world. The largest number of mounds in one place was located at Cahokia, where Missouri and Illinois now meet. In 1200 Cahokia was the largest pre-Columbian (before Columbus) city in North America, having a population larger than that of London in that same year. It existed from about 700 to 1400, although it began to decline after 1200. Once again, the reason for the decline of the civilization is unknown. The Southeast was also comprised of such tribes as the Cherokee, Seminole, and Creek.

### ▶ Great Plains

The Indians generally portrayed in older cowboy movies were the Great Plains Indians. They lived on the prairies between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, often in small villages along rivers and lakes. After horses were brought to the area, they became more nomadic. They lived in tepees, which were easy to transport, and roamed the grasslands to hunt the bison. The Sioux, Cheyenne, and Blackfoot tribes became powerful in the Plains.



## Native American Culture and Religion

Because Europeans and their descendants frequently viewed the Native American peoples as “backward,” not recognizing the God-given capabilities bestowed on all people as bearers of His image, in the past, Native American peoples were sometimes characterized as “savage.” However, the natives of pre-Columbian America skillfully shaped their environments and developed their cultures, unknowingly fulfilling the command to fill and subdue the earth (Gen. 1:28). In Central America, great ruins of highly developed civilizations still stand. In the American Southwest, Native Americans built cliff dwellings and irrigation systems. Along the Atlantic coast, Indians burned the forests once or twice a year to clear the undergrowth, making hunting and travel easier. But some Native Americans overhunted, killing more animals than needed. Others used the slash-and-burn method to prepare land for crops, destroying many potentially useful trees. After depleting fields of nutrients, some simply moved to new locations.

Religions among the North American Indians were typically based on belief in the Great Spirit, leading naturally to **animism**, the belief that all natural objects, whether animate (living) or inanimate (nonliving), have souls. Indian priests and shamans (sorcerers) attempted to communicate with these spirits. Sometimes whole villages performed ceremonies to please the spirits in the hope of having a good harvest or a successful hunt. Angry spirits were thought to cause problems such as wars, diseases, or poor crops.

### SECTION REVIEW 1.1

Throughout the book, shaded questions indicate critical thinking questions.

1. What are some leading theories on how people first came to the Americas?
2. How were the cultures of Mesoamerica similar to that of ancient Egypt?
3. How does human sacrifice violate God's Word?
4. Which regional groups of North American natives settled permanent villages and which were nomadic?
5. Define *animism*.
6. How were the religious ideas of Central and South American Indians different from those of North American Indians?

→ Cliff dwellings in Colorado





