

SOCIAL STUDIES STUDY GUIDE – CHAPTER 2

ARRIVAL THEORIES

1. Land Bridge – nomadic hunting groups from Asia followed large animals across a narrow strip of land called **Beringia** and into North America.
2. Early Arrival – Scientists believe that some people may have arrived during an earlier Ice Age, or by boat across the Pacific. This theory is supported by evidence found in archeological digs in Chile and southwestern Pennsylvania.
3. Origin Stories – many Native Americans believe that their people were created in North America. They tell stories to explain their origin and the creation of the world.

The earliest Americans survived by being nomads that followed giant animals and hunted them for food. As the large animals became extinct, these groups adapted and began growing their own food (**agriculture**).

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

1. **Culture** is the beliefs, traditions and customs of a group of people (society).
2. A group's culture is greatly influenced by the **environment** in which they live.
"Where you live affects how you live."
3. The Olmec and Maya civilizations developed in the region that is today Mexico. Both civilizations were divided into **social classes**.
4. The Anasazi civilization developed in the region that is today the southwestern United States. This region was hot and dry, so these people adapted to the environment and began the practice of **agriculture**, or growing one's own food.

NORTHWEST COAST

1. Chinook were the best-known **traders** of this region. They lived at the mouth of the Columbia River, which they used for fishing for salmon and as a "highway."
2. Makahs lived along the Pacific Coast. They relied on whales as their primary food source. They built **dugouts** canoes to go on whale hunts.
3. Northwest Coast Indians showed their wealth by holding lavish parties called **potlatches**.

DESERT SOUTHWEST

1. The dry desert environment required Southwest Indians to **adapt** their entire way of life.
2. Planting corn and storing the **surplus** meant survival for the Pueblo people during times of drought.
3. Pueblo people built their houses of adobe, stone, and mud.

GREAT PLAINS

1. Plains Indians relied on the **buffalo** as one of their most important **resources**. They used all parts of the buffalo for food, tools, clothing, and shelter.
2. Great Plains nomads lived in cone-shaped tents made of wooden poles covered with buffalo skins called **teepees**.
3. Indians of the interior plains lived in earth lodges covered in **sod**, which is grassy earth held together by its roots.

EASTERN WOODLANDS

1. Algonquians used **wampum** to keep records and send messages.
2. The Iroquois League was the government made up of the 5 largest Iroquois tribes. It was formed to help settle land disputes among the tribes.
3. Slash-and-burn agriculture was used by the Eastern Woodland Indians to help clear fields to plant crops. They used this form of agriculture because the forest was dense and they needed sunlight to reach the ground.