

The First Americans

Unit

1



START WITH THE STANDARDS

California History-Social Science Standards

- 5.1** Students describe the major pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.
- 5.9** Students know the location of the current 50 states and the names of their capitals

The Big Idea





GEOGRAPHY

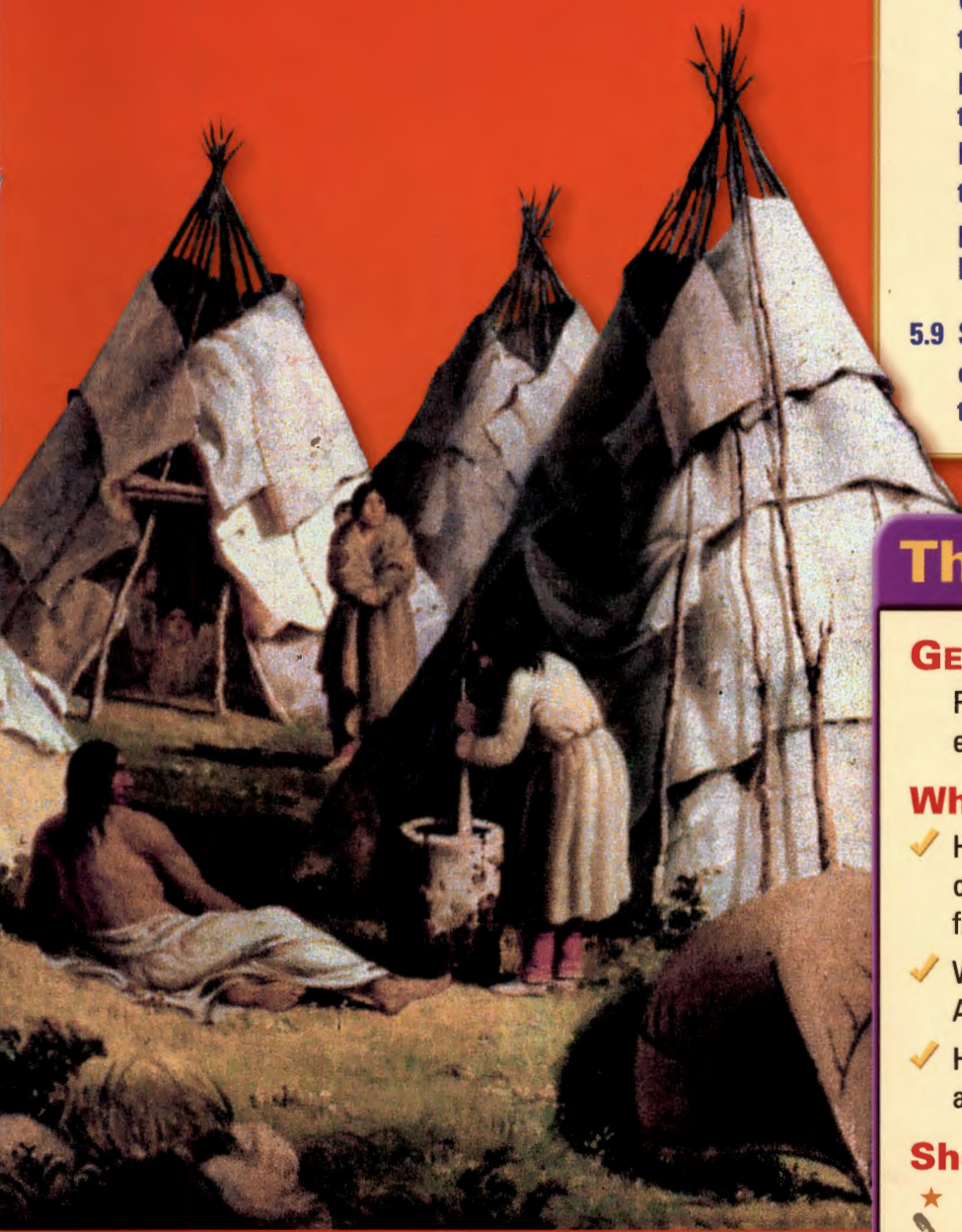
People interact with their environment and are affected by it.

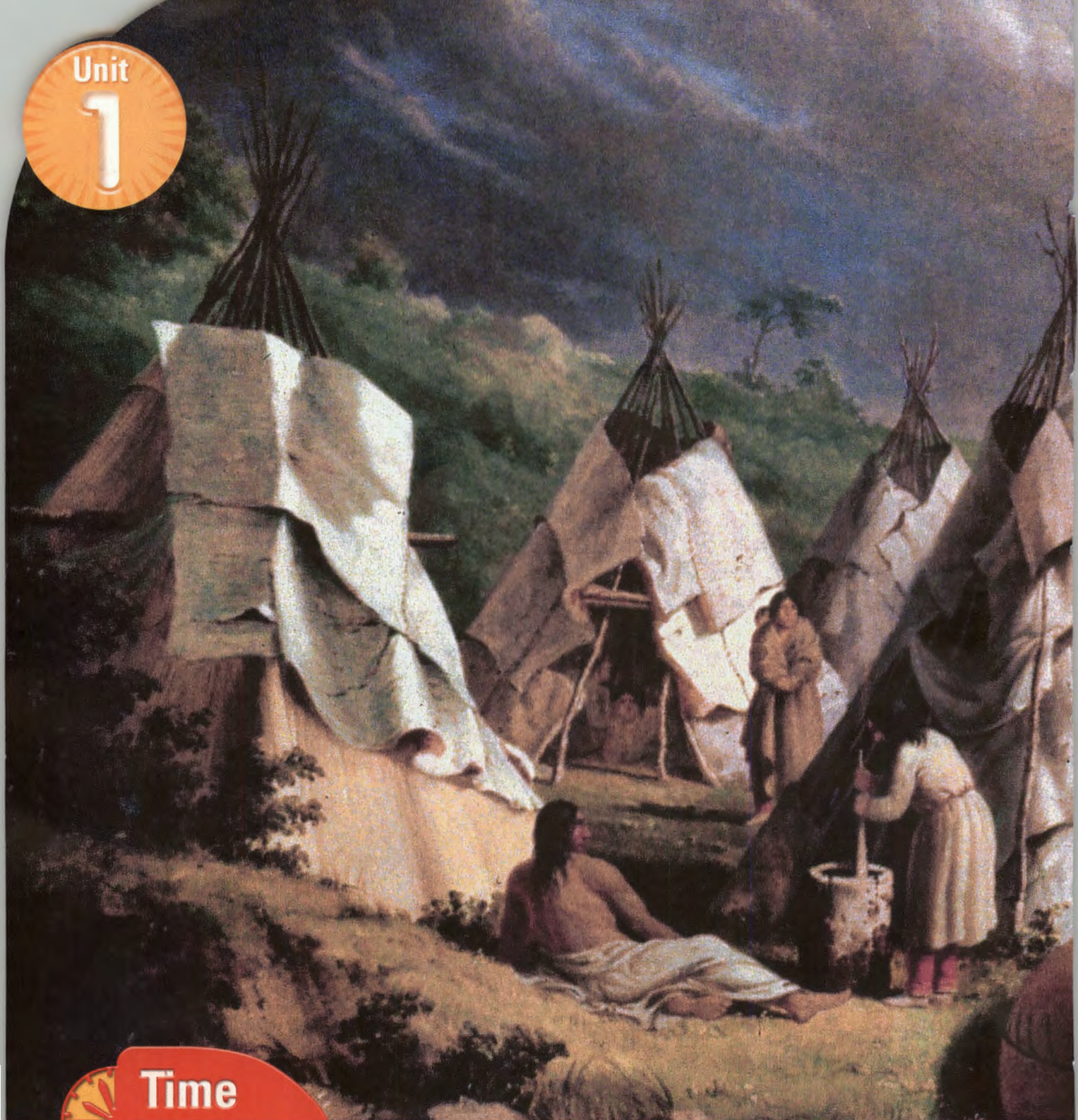
What to Know

- ✓ How does the geography and climate of the United States differ from region to region?
- ✓ What was the impact of early North American civilizations?
- ✓ How did geography and climate affect American Indian groups?

Show What You Know

- ★ Unit 1 Test
-  Writing: A Report
-  Unit Project: An American Indian Book





Time

The First Americans

• About 12,000 years ago
Ancient Indians hunt large animals, p. 28

12,000 years ago

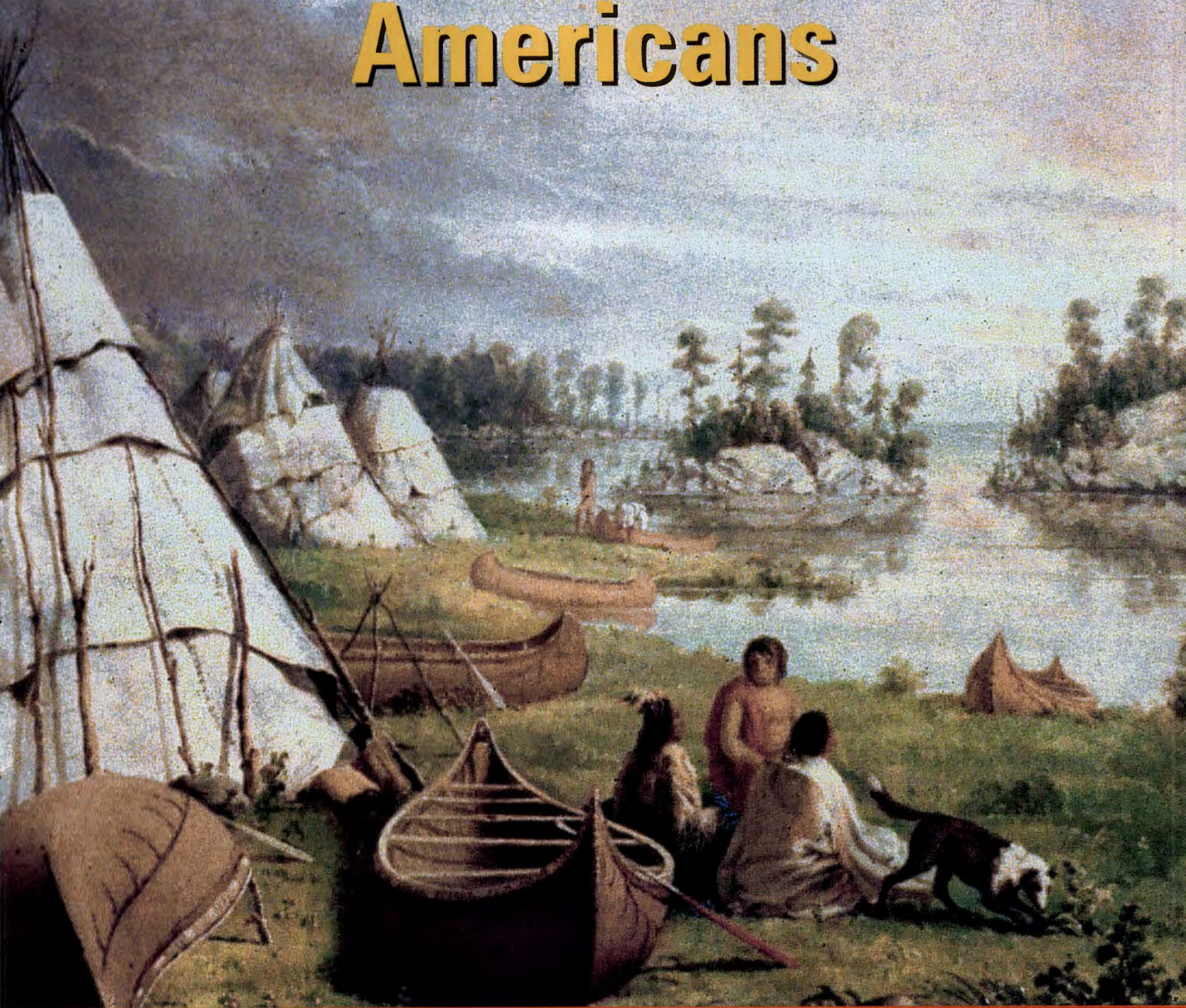
8,000 years ago

At the Same Time

• About 9,000 years ago
Ancient Indians live on the Channel Islands

• About 8,500 years ago
People in Asia begin making pottery

The First Americans



• **About 5,000 years ago**
Ancient Indians begin farming, p. 30

• **About 1,000 years ago**
The Navajo move to the desert Southwest, p. 56

• **About 800 years ago**
More than 30,000 people live in Cahokia, p. 39

4,000 years ago

PRESENT



• **About 4,500 years ago**
People in Asia begin training horses

Desert Southwest People


 People

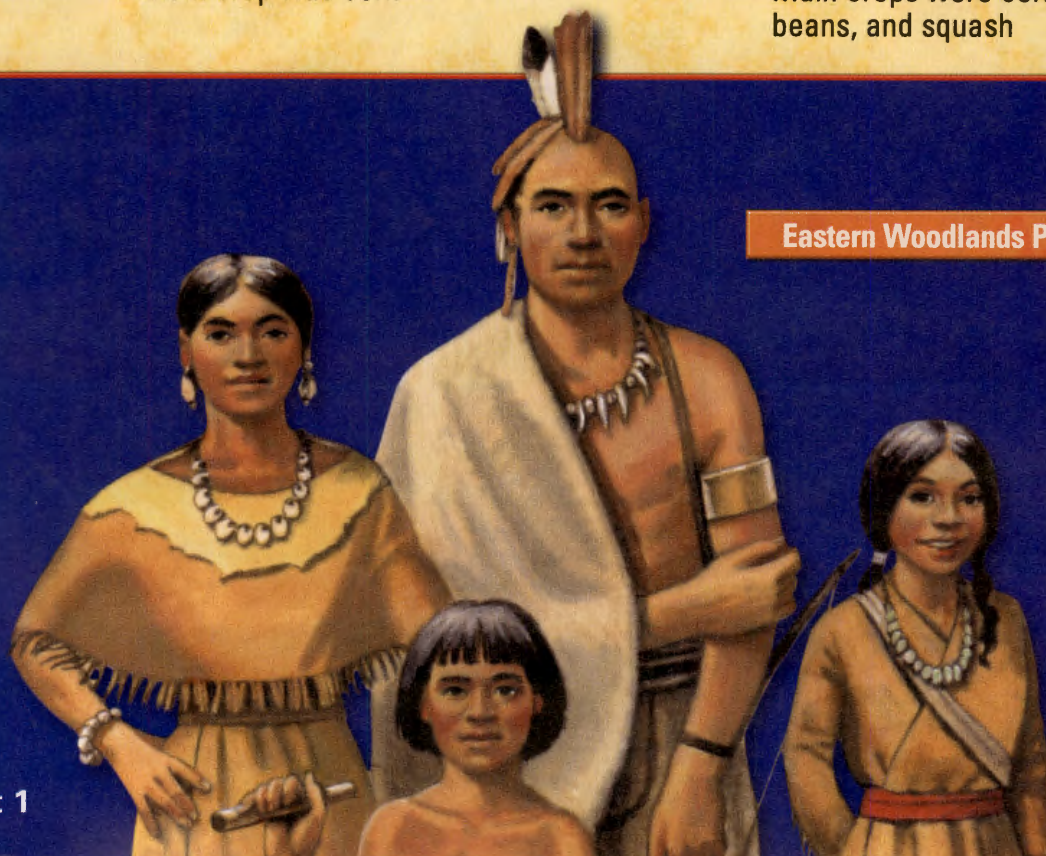
Desert Southwest People

- Lived in what is now Mexico, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona
- Experts at making baskets and pottery
- Main crop was corn

Eastern Woodlands People

- Lived mostly in areas east of the Mississippi River in what is now the United States
- Used wood to make canoes, tools, and shelters
- Main crops were corn, beans, and squash

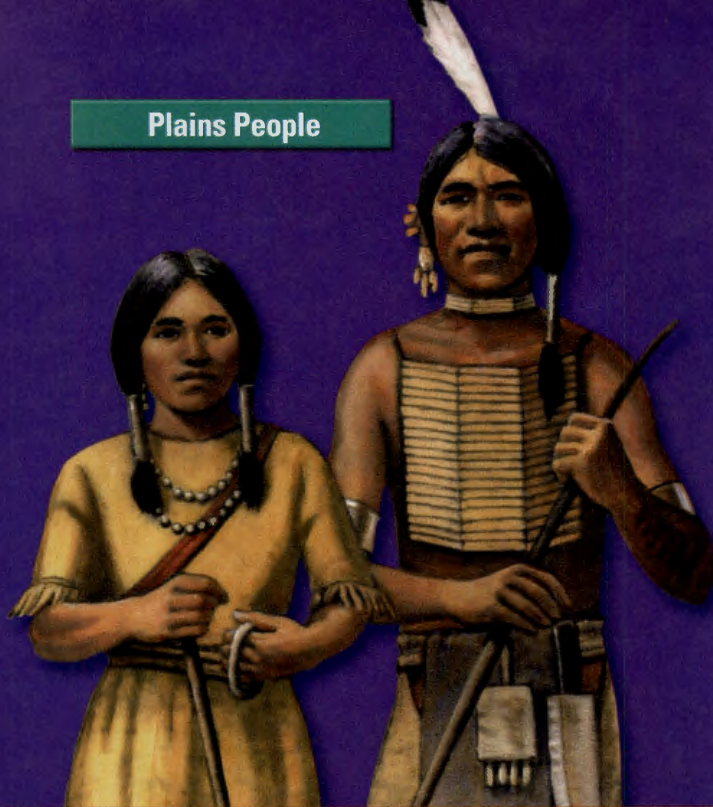
Eastern Woodlands People



Pacific Northwest People



Plains People



Pacific Northwest People

- Lived in what is now Canada, Washington, and Oregon.
- Skilled whalers and fishers
- Traveled long distances to trade

Plains People

- Lived in a wide area from what is now Texas to Canada
- Main food source was buffalo

Arctic People

- Lived in an area that covered much of what is now Canada and Alaska
- Used kayaks for fishing
- Skilled seal hunters

Arctic People





ASIA

ARCTIC OCEAN

Bering Sea

Gulf of Alaska

PACIFIC OCEAN



Pueblo Bonito, in what is now New Mexico

0 500 1,000 Miles
0 500 1,000 Kilometers
Modified Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection





Greenland

ATLANTIC OCEAN



Cahokia, in what is now Illinois



Moundville, in what is now Alabama

FOX Name of American Indian Tribe

Reading Social Studies

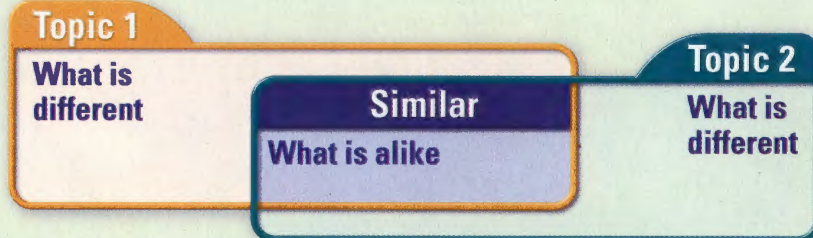


Compare and Contrast

When you **compare**, you tell how two or more things are alike, or similar. When you **contrast**, you tell how they are different.

Why It Matters

Being able to compare and contrast people, places, objects, and events can help you understand how they are similar and how they are different.



- ✓ *Like, both, all, also, too, similar, and same* are words that compare.
- ✓ *But, instead, unlike, however, different, and differ* are words that contrast.

Practice the Skill

Read the paragraph, and compare and contrast early Americans and modern Americans.

For thousands of years, people in the desert Southwest have lived with extreme heat. Early people built homes with thick adobe walls to help stay cool. Many modern homes in the region are built the same way. However, people today have air-conditioning, while early people did not.

The extreme heat and little rainfall in the desert make it difficult to grow crops there. The early people in the desert Southwest collected rainwater and dug ditches to bring water to their crops. Today, people living in the desert Southwest still use ditches, but they also rely on electric pumps to help get water to them.

Similar

Different

Apply What You Learned



Compare and Contrast Read the paragraphs, and answer the questions.

Living History

It is amazing to think that Americans today have some things in common with early Americans. Much has changed in the thousands of years since people first settled the Americas. Yet in some ways, history lives on.

Long ago, beans and corn were important foods in many parts of the Americas. They are important foods today, too. In fact, they have been on dinner tables for thousands of years. Many early Americans also enjoyed popcorn, just as many people do today.

Many early Americans used canoes and kayaks to travel down rivers and across lakes. In fact, *canoe* and *kayak* both come from Indian words. Many people still use these same boats. Today, however, most people use them for enjoyment, instead of for transportation.

Some early American groups built large cities with hundreds of buildings. Before building a city, they would plan ahead and set aside places for shops, homes, and religious buildings. Today, city planners organize cities and neighborhoods in much the same way.



Compare and Contrast

1. How are foods today similar to the foods of early Americans?
2. How are the ways early Americans used kayaks and canoes different from the ways people use them today?
3. How is the way Americans today plan cities similar to the way early Americans planned cities? How is it different?



Study Skills

PREVIEW AND QUESTION

Previewing a lesson to identify main ideas, and asking yourself questions about those ideas, can help you read to find important information.

- To preview a lesson, read the lesson title and the section titles. Look at the pictures, and read their captions. Try to get an idea of the main topic and think of questions you have about the topic.
- Read to find the answers to your questions. Then recite, or say, the answers aloud. Finally, review what you have read.

Early People				
Preview	Questions	Read	Recite	Review
Lesson 1 The United States can be divided in different ways.	How is the land in the United States divided?	✓	✓	✓
Lesson 2				

Apply As You Read

As you read this chapter, remember to preview each lesson. Use a chart like the one above to list the main topics and your questions.

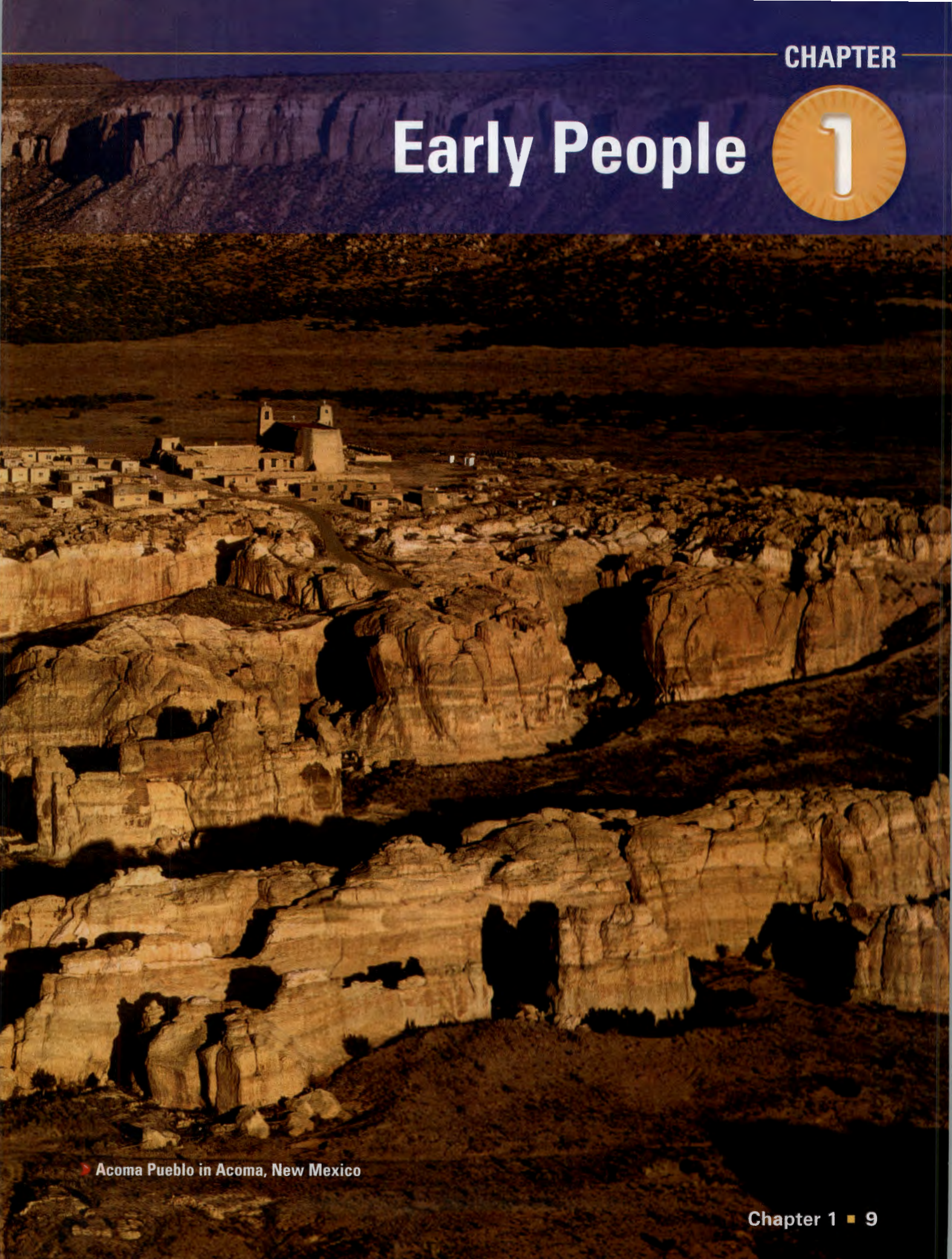


California History-Social Science
Standards, Grade 5

5.1 Students describe the major pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.

5.9 Students know the location of the current 50 states and the names of their capitals.

Early People



▶ Acoma Pueblo in Acoma, New Mexico

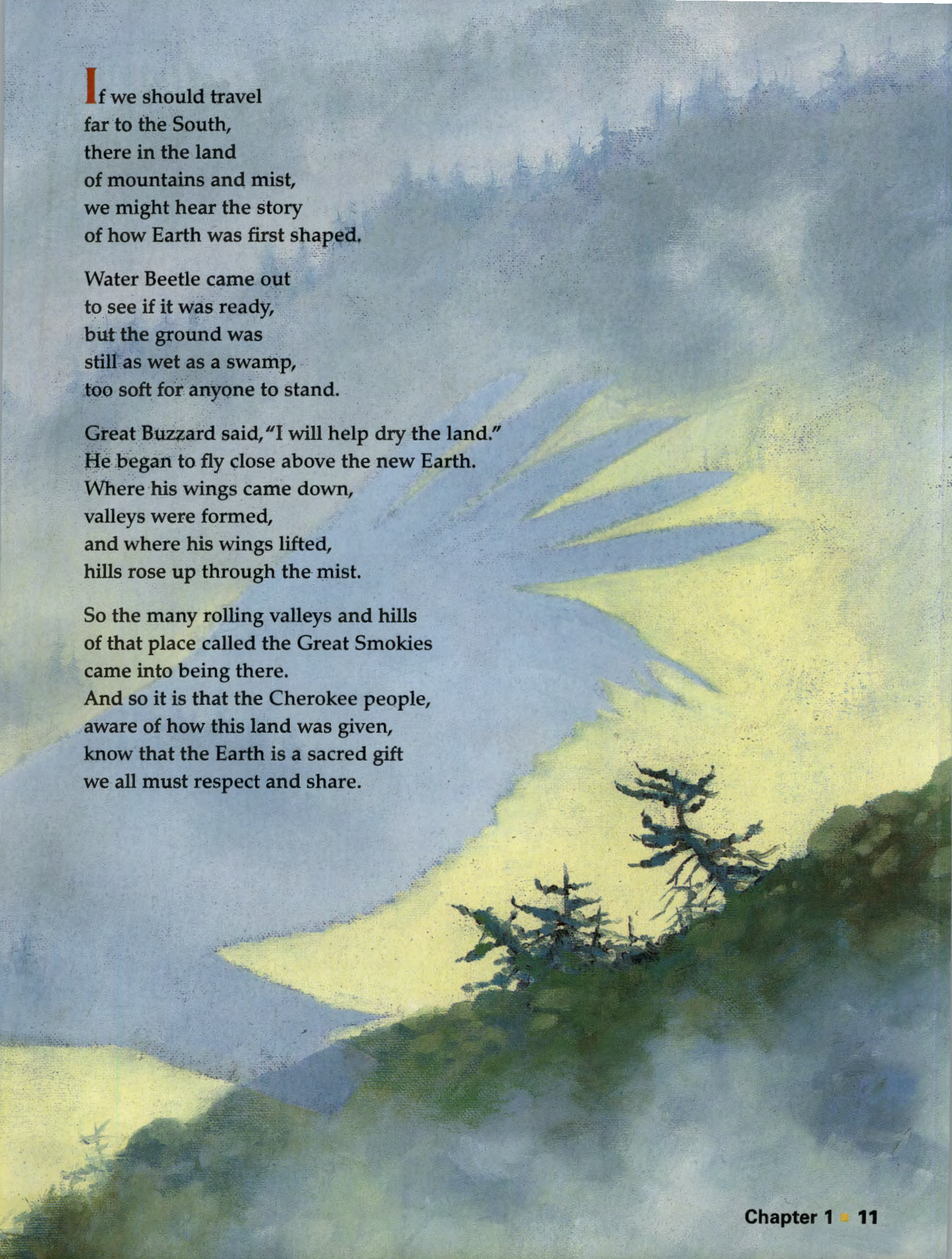
**Start
with a
Poem**



Between Earth and Sky

**by Joseph Bruchac
illustrated by John Martin**

Many people use poems, songs, or stories to tell about important events and people in their past. Some of these stories are legends. A legend is a story handed down by a group of people over time. Some legends tell about brave or heroic people. Others try to explain the origins of animals, plants, and the physical features found in the world.



If we should travel
far to the South,
there in the land
of mountains and mist,
we might hear the story
of how Earth was first shaped.

Water Beetle came out
to see if it was ready,
but the ground was
still as wet as a swamp,
too soft for anyone to stand.

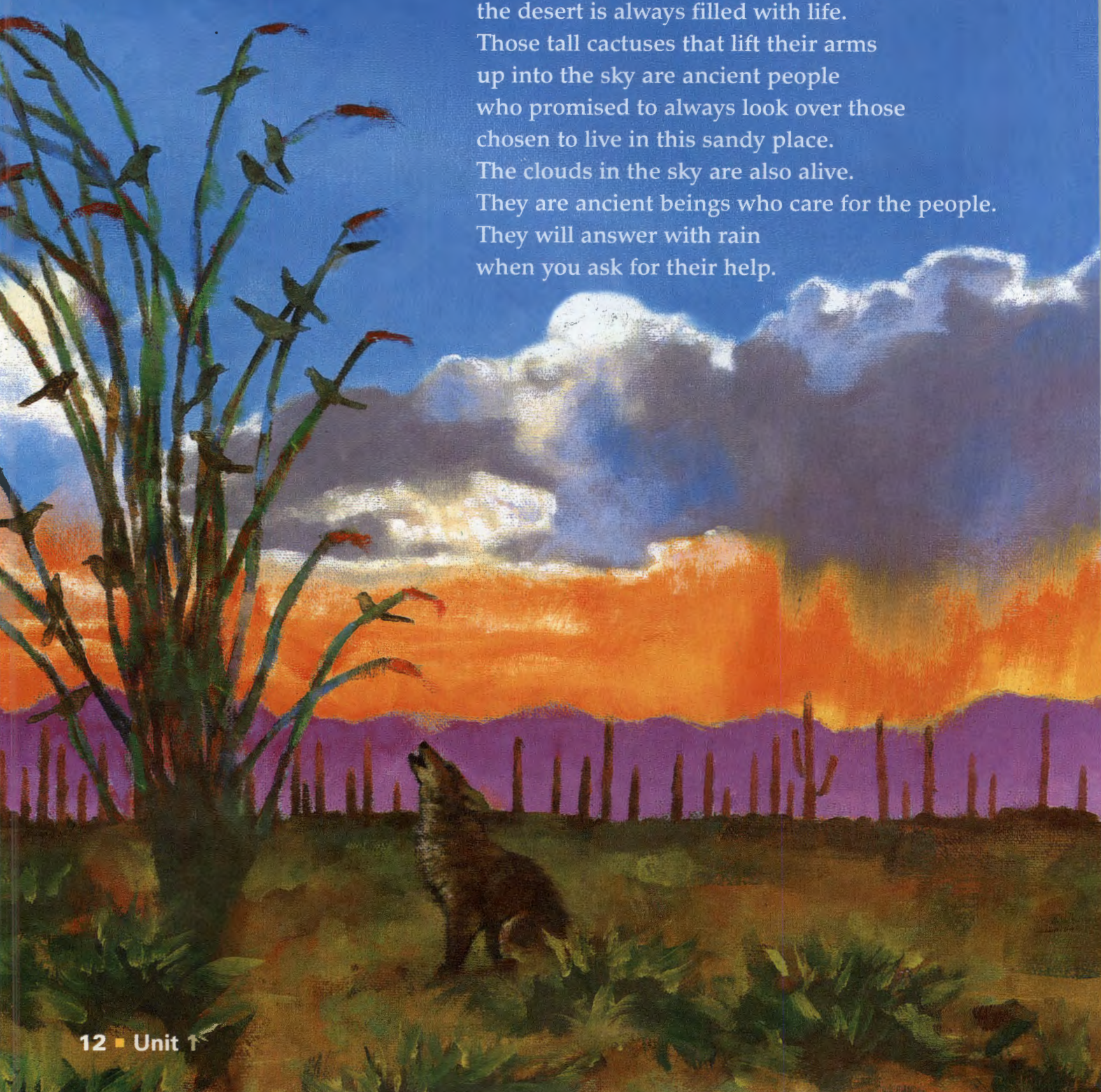
Great Buzzard said, "I will help dry the land."
He began to fly close above the new Earth.
Where his wings came down,
valleys were formed,
and where his wings lifted,
hills rose up through the mist.

So the many rolling valleys and hills
of that place called the Great Smokies
came into being there.

And so it is that the Cherokee people,
aware of how this land was given,
know that the Earth is a sacred gift
we all must respect and share.

Far from here
to the West is a desert land where
I'toi, the Elder Brother,
looked out and then said to the people,
"In this place you will live
as long as you remember
all around you is sacred."

Though it seems to be empty and dry,
the desert is always filled with life.
Those tall cactuses that lift their arms
up into the sky are ancient people
who promised to always look over those
chosen to live in this sandy place.
The clouds in the sky are also alive.
They are ancient beings who care for the people.
They will answer with rain
when you ask for their help.



Here in the desert, where the air is clear,
you can hear the sound of
blessing rains, which come
after the people pray,
asking the clouds once more
to bring the sacred moisture
singing from their rainhouse
on the eastern horizon.
Then, as the ocotillo turns green
and the saguaro cactuses blossom,
they watch the cycle of life begin again.

Response Corner

- 1 What is the author describing in each poem?
- 2 Explain why people use poems, songs, and stories to explain the world around them.

Lesson

1

The Land and States



WHAT TO KNOW

How do the geography and climate differ as you travel across the 50 states?

- ✓ Identify and describe some of the major landforms and bodies of water in the United States.
- ✓ Learn the location of the 50 states and their capitals.

VOCABULARY

landform region p. 15

climate p. 16

environment p. 18

PEOPLE

Robert Louis Stevenson

PLACES

Coastal Plain

Appalachian Mountains

Interior Plains

Mississippi River

Great Lakes

Rocky Mountains

Great Basin

Sierra Nevada



COMPARE AND CONTRAST



California Standards

HSS 5.1, 5.1.1, 5.9



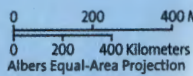
Imagine that you could live anywhere on Earth. Would you choose to live near the ocean or near mountains? Would you rather live in a region where winters are long and snowy or where most days are sunny and warm?

No matter how you answer these questions, you can find all these different places in the same country. The United States is a large country made up of 50 states. You may know what the land and climate are like in one state, but you may wonder how they differ in other parts of the country.

► The San Juan Mountains cover more than 12,000 square miles in southwestern Colorado.



The United States



- ⊗ National capital
- ★ State capital
- National border
- State border



ANALYZER SKILL Analyze Maps You can use this map to learn the names of all the states and their capitals.

Location Which state capital is closest to Sacramento?

A Nation of 50 States

The United States is a nation of incredible beauty that is made up of 50 states, each with its own capital. Of the 50 states, 2 are separated from the others. The island state of Hawaii lies far to the west in the Pacific Ocean. Alaska, the northernmost state, is separated from the states to the south by the country of Canada.

Because the United States is so large, geographers sometimes divide it into

landform regions. A **landform region** has mainly one kind of landform—such as mountains, hills, plateaus, or plains—throughout. Each region is unique, or unlike the others, because of the shape of its landforms and the way they came to be. Dividing the country into landform regions makes it easier to compare and contrast different parts of the country.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How does the state of Hawaii differ from other states in the nation?

Landforms of North America



ANALYZE SKILL Analyze Maps

Regions What mountain region lies to the east of the Mississippi River?

The Coastal Plain

In the late 1800s, a well-known writer named **Robert Louis Stevenson** traveled across the United States. Stevenson was living in Scotland when he received word that Fanny Osbourne, his sweetheart, was ill. Osbourne lived in the United States, and Stevenson decided to go there. He

did not realize how much his trip across the United States would teach him about the nation's geography and climate.

Climate is the kind of weather a place has over a long time.

On August 7, 1879, Stevenson left Scotland. He boarded a ship and spent ten stormy days crossing the Atlantic Ocean. As the ship neared New York City,

Stevenson looked out on a broad, tree-lined plain. This flat, low land along the Atlantic Ocean is part of a much larger region called the **Coastal Plain**.

The Coastal Plain begins along the coast of Massachusetts as a narrow strip of land no more than 10 miles wide. It gets much wider farther south, near Florida. From Florida, the Coastal Plain extends west along the Gulf of Mexico into Texas and the country of Mexico.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
What is the difference between the Coastal Plain in Massachusetts and in Florida?

The Appalachians

Stevenson did not stay in New York City long. Osbourne lived on the Pacific Coast of the United States—in San Francisco, California. To reach California, Stevenson boarded a train for the long journey to the western coast.

When the train reached Pennsylvania, the land began to change. Instead of being flat, it was now filled with wide

valleys and hills. This area of valleys and hills on the eastern side of the **Appalachian** (a•puh•LAY•chuhn) **Mountains** is called the Piedmont (PEED•mahnt). *Piedmont* means “at the base of a mountain.” The Piedmont begins in New Jersey and extends as far south as Alabama.

The tree-covered Appalachian Mountains rise above the Piedmont. This 2,000-mile-long mountain range, or group of connected mountains, runs from southeastern Canada to central Alabama.

The Appalachian Mountains are the oldest mountains in North America. Over time, the mountains’ peaks have been eroded, or worn down by rain and wind. The highest peaks in the Appalachians are about 7,000 feet tall.

A large part of the Appalachians is made up of a series of ridges and valleys that run next to each other. Among these ridges are the Great Smoky, Blue Ridge, Catskill, and White Mountains.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How is the Piedmont different from the Coastal Plain?

► The Appalachian Mountains are more than 250 million years old.



The Interior Plains

West of the Appalachian Mountains, the land gets flat again. Here, in the center of the United States, Stevenson saw other plains, which we call the Interior Plains.

The **Interior Plains** stretch across the middle of the United States, from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west. Most of the land in the Interior Plains is flat, with many streams and rivers. In the middle of the country, these waters drain into the **Mississippi River**. Here, the mighty Mississippi is fed by large rivers such as the Arkansas, the Illinois, the Ohio, and the Missouri. Also in the Interior Plains are the five **Great Lakes**, which make up the world's largest group of freshwater lakes.

In the eastern part of the Interior Plains, often called the Central Plains, the land is mostly flat with numerous

streams and rivers. During his journey across the Central Plains, Stevenson wrote that "the country was flat . . . but far from being dull. All through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, . . . it was rich and various."*

When Stevenson's train stopped in the middle of Nebraska, he saw that the **environment**, or the surroundings in which people, plants, and animals live, was yet again different. This western part of the Interior Plains is called the Great Plains, and includes parts of 10 states.

In the Great Plains, the land becomes much flatter and the climate much drier. There are few rivers and almost no trees. To Stevenson, the land seemed to look the same for mile after mile. He wrote that a person "may walk five miles and see nothing; ten, and it is as though he had not moved."*

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How do the Central Plains differ from the Great Plains?

*Robert Louis Stevenson. *From Scotland to Silverado*. Harvard University Press, 1966.

LOCATE IT



► This field in Nebraska is part of miles and miles of flat land that make up the Great Plains.



The Rocky Mountains and Beyond

As Stevenson's train moved west, the flat Interior Plains gave way to the towering **Rocky Mountains**. The Rockies cover much of the western United States and are our country's largest and longest mountain range. They stretch from Mexico through Canada and into Alaska. Like the Appalachians, the Rockies are made up of smaller ranges.

The Rocky Mountains are much younger than the Appalachians. The peaks of the Rockies appear sharp and jagged because they have not been eroded for as long a time. More than 50 peaks in Colorado alone are higher than 14,000 feet. In the mountains, climate can vary as the land rises up. Because the Rockies are so high, many of the peaks are covered with snow all year long.

Stevenson's train moved slowly, taking two days to cross the Rocky Mountains. Then the environment changed once again. Now Stevenson looked out the window and saw only "desert scenes, fiery hot and deadly weary."*

Between the Rocky Mountains on the east and other mountains farther west is a large area of land that is mostly dry. It is sometimes called the Intermountain Region. *Intermountain* means "between the mountains." Part of this land is the **Great Basin**, which includes Nevada and parts of five neighboring states. A basin is low, bowl-shaped land with higher land all around it. At the southwestern edge of the Great Basin lies Death Valley, California. The lowest point in North America, part of Death Valley lies more than 250 feet below sea level.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How do the Rocky Mountains differ from the Appalachian Mountains?

*Robert Louis Stevenson. *From Scotland to Silverado*. Harvard University Press, 1966.



More Mountains and Valleys

Stevenson's train left the desert and headed west toward more mountains. Lying just inside California is the **Sierra Nevada** (see•AYR•uh nuh•VA•duh). *Sierra Nevada* is Spanish for "snowy mountain range." The eastern slope of the mountains is so steep that riders on Stevenson's train were pinned to their seats as the train climbed the mountains!

Other mountains lie north of the Sierra Nevada, in Washington and Oregon.

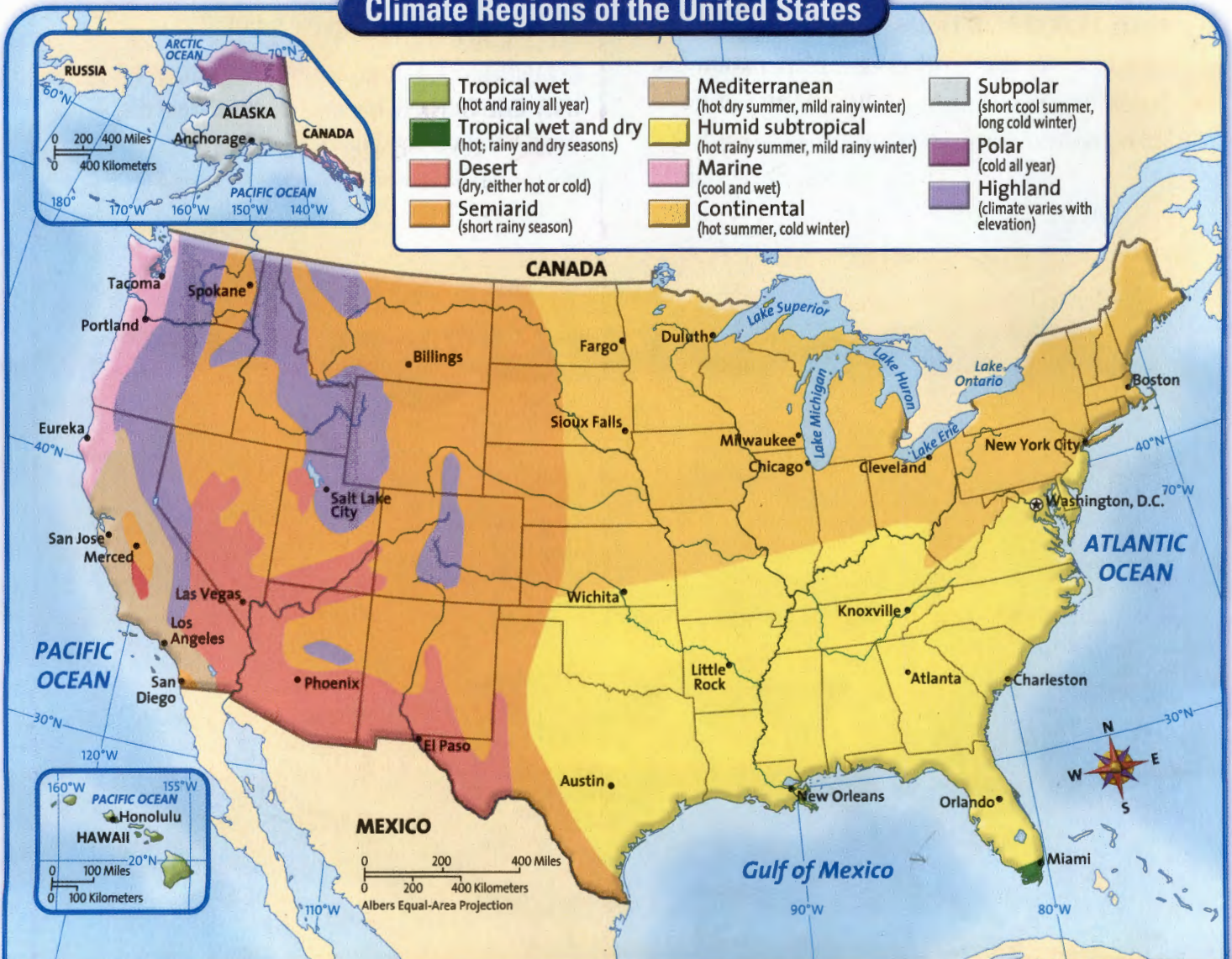
These mountains make up the Cascade Range. West of the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Range are three large, fertile valleys. The largest is the more than 400-mile-long Central Valley in California. The others are the Puget Sound Lowland in Washington and the Willamette (wuh•LA•muht) Valley in Oregon.

Along the Pacific Ocean in California, Oregon, and Washington are the Coast Ranges. These low mountains give the Pacific a rocky, rugged look. At many places these mountains drop sharply into the ocean. Unlike the Atlantic Coast, the Pacific Coast has very little flat land.

ANALYSIS SKILL Analyze Maps Climate influences life in every area of the United States.

Regions In which climate region is your community located?

Climate Regions of the United States





► In Big Sur, California, steep cliffs have formed where the Coast Ranges meet the Pacific Ocean.

Stevenson arrived in San Francisco 24 days after he had left home. At long last, he met Osbourne, who had regained her health. He had traveled from one coast of the United States to the other. He had seen much of the country and many of its major landform regions. By taking a train across the United States, Stevenson had learned much about the country's diverse geography and climate.

READING CHECK 🔗 **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
 How do the Coast Ranges differ from the Sierra Nevada?

Summary

The United States is made up of 50 states, each with its own capital. Because the country is so large, its geography and climate vary from one part of the country to another. Geographers sometimes divide the country into landform regions.

REVIEW

- 💡 How do the geography and climate differ as you travel across the 50 states?
- Write a sentence that includes the terms **landform region** and **environment**.
- What two states are separated from the others?

CRITICAL THINKING

- ANALYSIS SKILL** Why do you think Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about the geography and climate of the United States during his trip?
- Make Flash Cards** Use notecards or take sheets of construction paper and cut them into 50 small cards. On one side of each card write the name of a state and on the other side write the name of its capital. Study the cards and then work with a classmate to quiz each other on state capital names.
- FOCUS SKILL** **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
 On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.

Topic 1

The Appalachians are older.

Similar

Topic 2

The Rockies are younger.



Use Latitude and Longitude

WHY IT MATTERS

The **relative location** of a place is where it is compared to other places on Earth. For example, the Coastal Plain is between the Piedmont and the Atlantic Ocean. But lines of latitude and lines of longitude help you describe the **absolute location**, or exact location, of any place on Earth.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

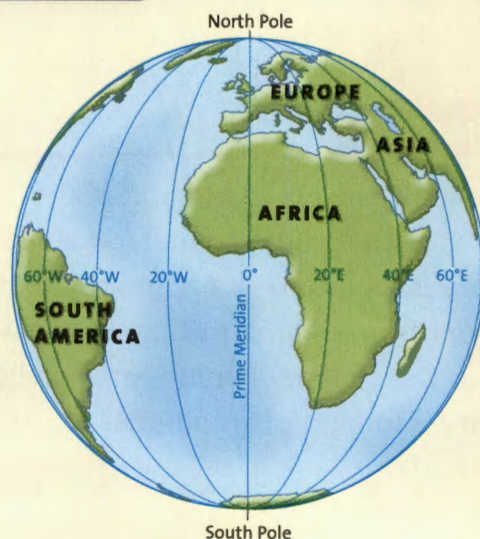
Mapmakers use a system of imaginary lines to form a grid system on maps and globes. The lines that run east and west are the **lines of latitude**. Lines of latitude are also called **parallels** (PAIR•uh•lelz). This is because they are parallel, or always the same distance from each other.

Lines of latitude are measured in degrees north and south of the equator, which is labeled 0° , or zero degrees. The parallels north of the equator are marked *N* for *north latitude*. The parallels south of the equator are marked *S* for *south latitude*.

The lines that run north and south on a map or globe are the **lines of longitude**, or **meridians**. Each meridian runs from the North Pole to the South Pole. Meridians meet at the poles.

The meridian marked 0° is called the prime meridian. Lines of longitude to the west of the prime meridian are marked *W* for *west longitude*. They are in the Western Hemisphere. The meridians to the east of the prime meridian are marked *E* for *east longitude*. They are in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Latitude and Longitude



United States Latitude and Longitude



▶ PRACTICE THE SKILL

The map above shows state capitals in the United States and uses lines of latitude and longitude to give absolute location.

On the left-hand side of the map, find 40°N . At the bottom, find 120°W . Use your fingers to trace these lines to the point where they cross. Carson City, Nevada, near the border of California, is not far from this point. So you can say that Carson City is near 40°N , 120°W .

Use the map to answer these questions.

- 1 Which state capital is nearest to 40°N , 105°W ?

- 2 Which state capital is nearest to 30°N , 85°W ?
- 3 Which state capital is farther north—Salem, Oregon, or Madison, Wisconsin?

▶ APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

ANALYSIS SKILL **Make It Relevant** Use latitude and longitude to describe the location of your state's capital city. Write a short paragraph to describe how you found the capital's location.



Practice your map and globe skills with the **GeoSkills CD-ROM**.

• about 12,000
years ago

Ancient people
hunt large animals

• about 5,000
years ago

Ancient people begin
farming in the Americas



WHAT TO KNOW

How did people first come to live in the Americas?

- ✓ Identify possible explanations of how people came to live in the Americas.
- ✓ Explain how early people in the Americas lived, hunted, and farmed.
- ✓ Understand how changes in the environment affected early peoples' lives.

VOCABULARY

ancestor p. 25
theory p. 25
migration p. 25
artifact p. 26
legend p. 27
generation p. 27
nomad p. 28
agriculture p. 30
culture p. 31

PLACES

Beringia
 Clovis



COMPARE AND CONTRAST



California
 Standards

HSS 5.1, 5.1.1

Ancient Indians

YOU ARE THERE

The time is more than 10,000 years ago and you and your family are busy settling into a new campsite. For many days, your group has been tracking a herd of mammoths, and the adults are hopeful that the hunting will be good here. In the meantime, you work as fast as you can, gathering wild plants to help feed your group. The air is bitterly cold, but you keep warm by gathering the plants quickly. By tomorrow your group will join together in the first hunt, and you hope that it will be a great success.



The Land Bridge Story

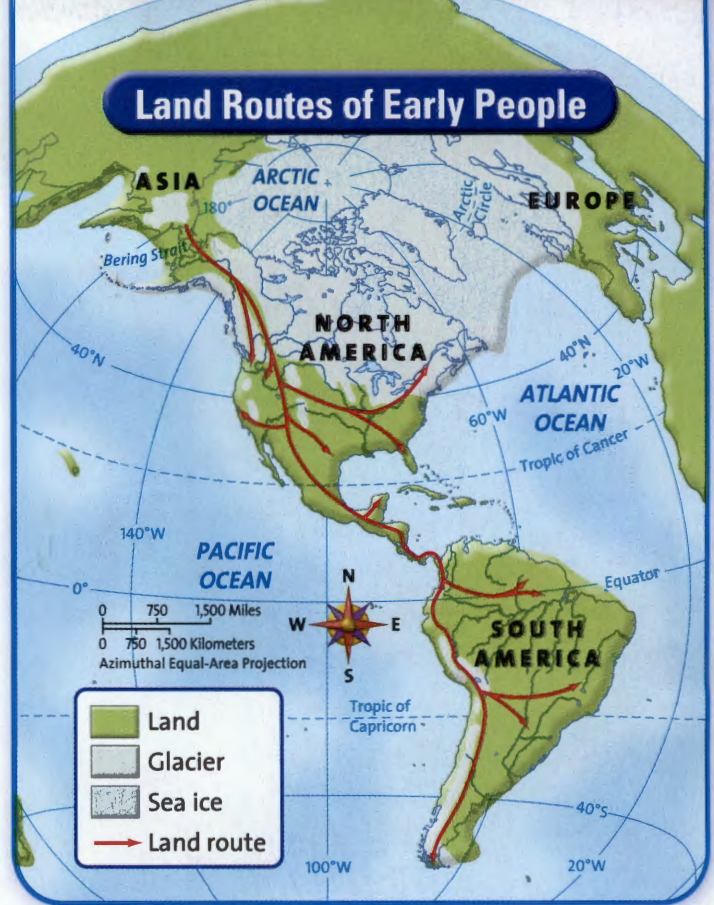
The history of the United States begins with the first people in North America many thousands of years ago. They are the **ancestors**, or early family members, of present-day American Indians. How did these first people come to live in North America and South America?

After many years of study, scientists are still not sure of the answer. However, they do have several possible explanations, or theories. A **theory** is an idea based on study and research.

One theory is that there was once a “bridge” of dry land between the continents of Asia and North America. Scientists call this land bridge **Beringia** (buh•RIN•jee•uh). It was named for the Bering Strait, the narrow body of water that now separates Russia from Alaska.

Scientists who study Earth’s past have found proof that thousands of years ago, there were several Ice Ages, or long periods of freezing cold. During the Ice Ages, huge, slow-moving sheets of ice called glaciers (GLAY•sherz) covered large parts of Earth.

Scientists think that so much of Earth’s water was trapped in glaciers that the level of the oceans fell by as much as



ANALYSIS SKILL Analyze Maps

Movement About how many miles is it from Asia to the tip of South America?

350 feet. Because of this, the Earth had more dry land—including Beringia—than it does now.

Many scientists believe that thousands of years ago, groups of hunters and their families walked from Asia across the land bridge to North America. This **migration**, or movement of people, probably took place very slowly. Groups may have moved only a few miles in an entire lifetime. At that rate, they would have taken hundreds of years to just reach Alaska!

READING CHECK COMPARE AND CONTRAST

How did the geography and climate of the Ice Ages differ from those of today?





GEOGRAPHY

San Miguel Island

San Miguel Island, located off the coast of southern California, is one of five islands that make up Channel Island National Park. Many artifacts found there suggest that the people of San Miguel used boats to travel far from shore.



Other Arrival Theories

For many years, scientists thought that people arrived in the Americas about 12,000 years ago. Recently, however, archaeologists have found objects that may be more than 12,000 years old. Archaeologists (ar•kee•AH•luh•jists) are scientists who study the remaining traces of early people.

At Meadowcroft Rock Shelter, in Pennsylvania, some archaeologists have found stone tools that may have been made 14,000 years ago. Objects recently uncovered at Monte Verde (MOHN•tay VAIR•day), in Chile, may be 13,000 years old. These **artifacts**, or objects made by people, include huts, digging sticks, and even a child's footprint.

Some scientists disagree about the dates of certain artifacts, but most now think that people probably arrived in the Americas before 12,000 years ago. If so,

those people may have crossed Beringia during another, earlier Ice Age.

Other discoveries hint that people may have come to the Americas in a different way. They may have traveled by boat. On San Miguel Island, about 25 miles off the coast of California, archaeologists have found artifacts that may date back 10,000 years. Archaeologists know that the people who made the artifacts used boats, because they lived on an island and ate deepwater fish caught far from shore. To catch these fish, they made hooks out of seashells.

READING CHECK COMPARE AND CONTRAST

How are the theories of migration to the Americas different?

Origin Stories

Ideas about the arrival of the first Americans also come from their descendants. In ancient times, most people passed on their history by memorizing stories. They told these **legends**, or stories handed down from the past, to their children and their grandchildren. As a result, generations of American Indians have learned these stories. A **generation** is the average time between the birth of parents and the birth of their children.

American Indian groups have all used legends to tell about their past. The stories that tell about their origins, or beginnings, are called origin stories.

Some American Indian origin stories explain how the world was made. For example, the Blackfoot tell a story of Old Man the Creator. According to the story, he made the animals and the plants and formed plains and mountains.

► American Indian storytellers keep their culture alive by sharing stories from the past.



► This sculpture represents the Iroquois Tree of Peace.

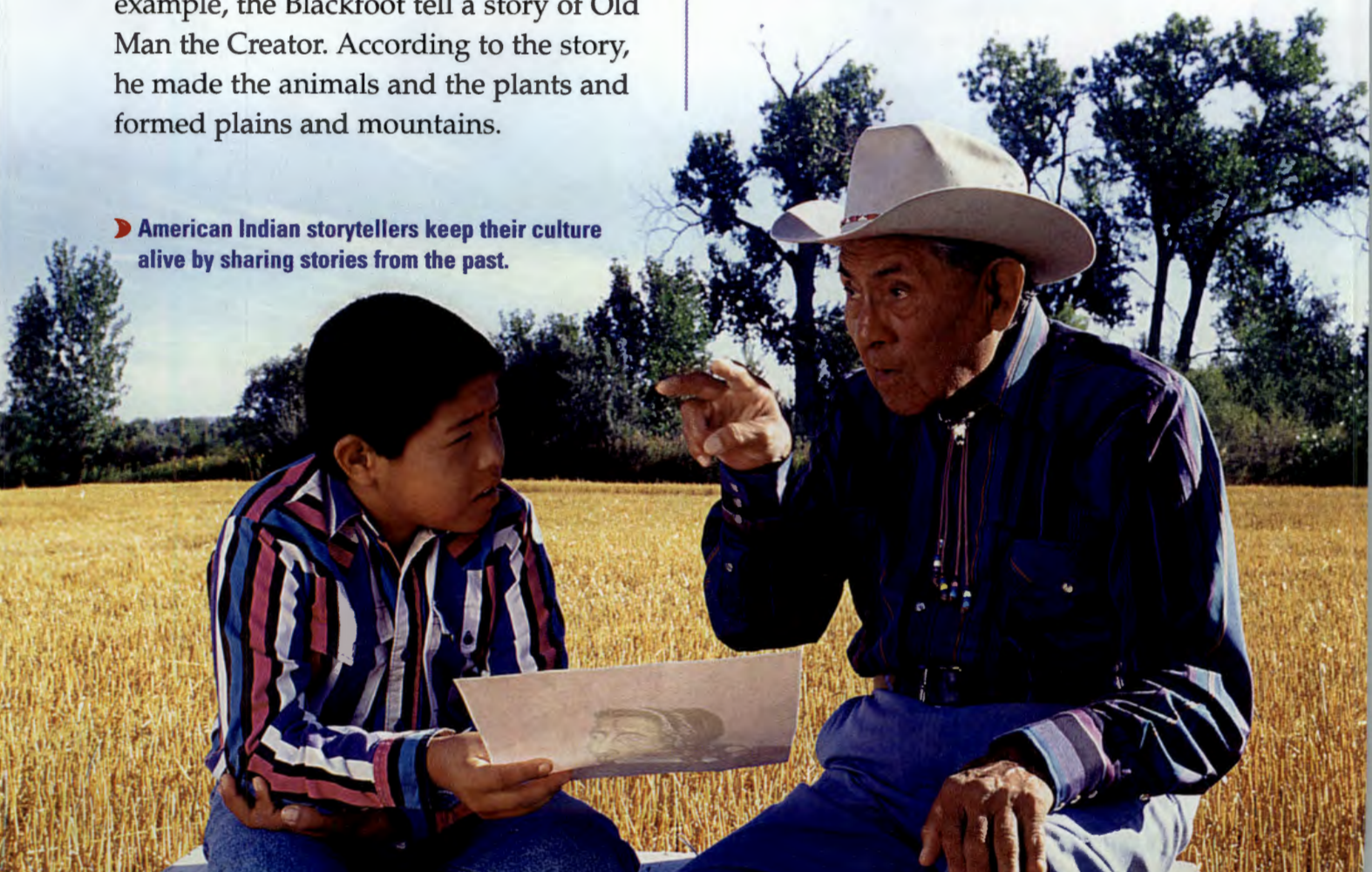
The Huron tell an origin story that begins with water covering Earth. According to the story, land was formed from a tiny bit of soil taken from the claws of a turtle. The turtle had picked up the soil from the bottom of the ocean. Because of this story

and others like it, some American Indians use the name *Turtle Island* to describe the Americas.

No one knows exactly when the first Americans arrived. However, many American Indians believe that their people have always lived in the Americas.

READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

What is another source of ideas about the origin of early people in the Americas?



Early Ways of Life

No matter how the first people got to the Americas, they were most likely **nomads**, or people with no permanent homes. They lived in caves or in tents made of animal skins. They kept moving, following herds of animals that they could hunt. Archaeologists know this because they have found spear points near the bones of ancient animals.

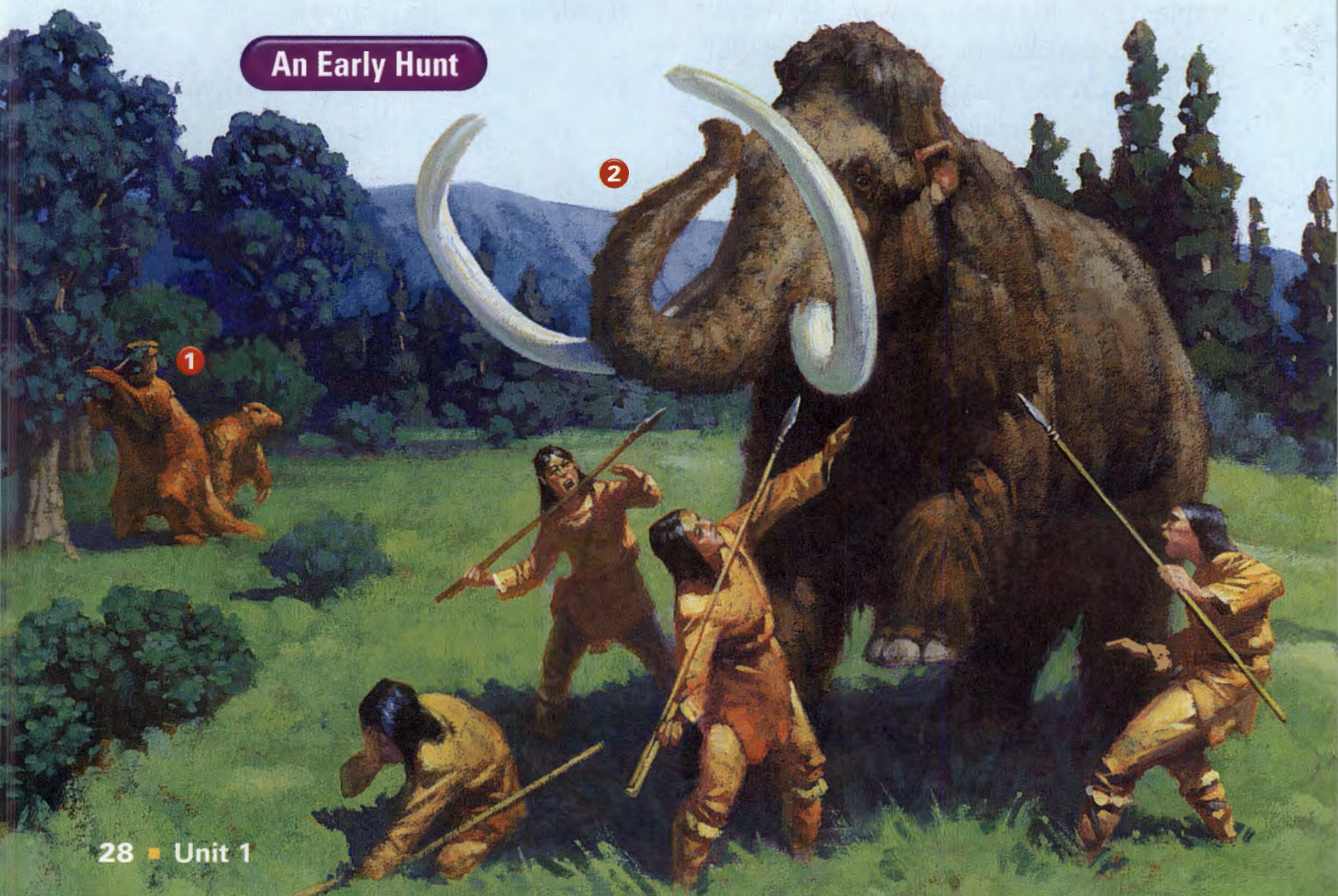
After the last Ice Age ended, the climate of North America was cool and damp. The plants that grew then provided food for very large animals such as giant mastodons and woolly mammoths. These animals looked like huge, hairy elephants. They stood up to 14 feet tall, weighed as much as 10,000 pounds, and often had tusks up to 14 feet long.

The ancient Indians who hunted these giant animals ate the meat and used the fur, skins, and bones to make clothing, shelters, and tools. They also gathered wild foods, such as mushrooms. That is why scientists sometimes refer to these people as hunters and gatherers.

Compared to the huge animals they hunted, the ancient Indians were small and weak. They had to learn to work in groups to kill the animals. In time, they learned to sharpen stones into points and tie them to sturdy wooden sticks.

Various groups of ancient Indians invented different tools to help them hunt. Some made clubs and axes with stone blades. Later, other people invented a new kind of tool called the atlatl (AHT•lah•tuhl), which allowed hunters to throw their spears faster and farther.

An Early Hunt



In order to survive, the ancient Indians had to improve their tools. About the time the atlatl was invented, the ancient Indians came up with a new kind of spear point. Using a bone or a stone, they knocked off flakes, or small thin chips, from flint or other kinds of stone. They flaked the stone until the point was razor sharp. Then they hollowed out the point and fastened it tightly to a wooden spear. The spears were much better hunting weapons than earlier ones.

These deadly spear points are called Clovis points. They are named after the town of Clovis, New Mexico, where archaeologists first found them.



► Clovis point

Slowly, the climate of North America changed, becoming warmer and drier. Most of the plants that the giant animals ate could no longer grow, which may be one reason these animals became extinct, or died out. About 10,000 years ago, most of them disappeared.

People had to find new sources of food, so they began to fish and to hunt smaller animals, such as deer and rabbits. The ancient

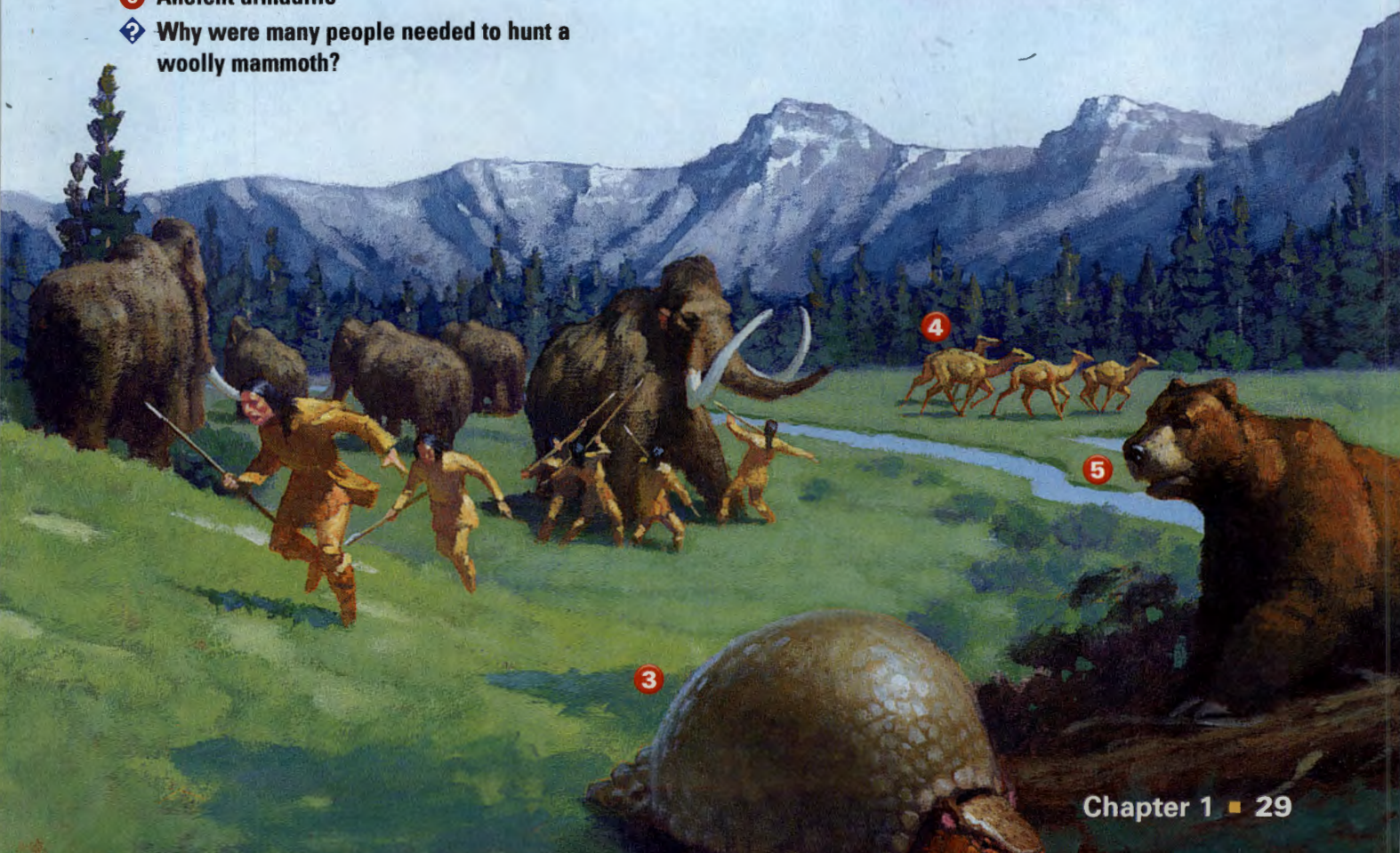
Indians made new hunting tools, including the bow and arrow. They also began to eat a greater variety of plants.

READING CHECK 🔗 **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How was life different for the ancient Indians after the giant animals became extinct?

Analyze Illustrations Early people worked together to hunt large animals.

- 1 Giant sloth
 - 2 Woolly mammoth
 - 3 Ancient armadillo
 - 4 Ancient camels
 - 5 Giant short-faced bear
- ❓ Why were many people needed to hunt a woolly mammoth?



A New Way of Life

TIME About 5,000 years ago

PLACE North America

When the ancient Indians gathered more food than they could use right away, they found ways to store it. They used reeds, vines, and strips of wood to make baskets. Later, people learned to make storage containers out of other materials, such as clay.

Over time, some ancient Indians changed their lifeways, or ways of life, even more. They began to plant seeds and to grow food instead of only gathering it. This change was the beginning of **agriculture**, or farming, in the Americas.

Agriculture started at different times in different parts of the world. In the Americas, ancient Indians likely started

farming about 5,000 years ago. Some of the earliest farmers lived in the Tehuacán (tay•wah•KAHN) Valley in central Mexico. In the fertile valley, they grew at least 12 kinds of maize (MAYZ), or corn, as well as avocados, squash, and beans. Maize was the most important crop for many people living in North America. It was grown all across the continent.

One way that farming changed the lives of many of the ancient Indian groups was by giving them a reason to stay in one place for longer periods of time. By about 5,000 years ago, some were building stronger homes and had started villages. Some groups also formed what are now called tribes. A tribe is a group of people who share the same language, land, and leaders.

► Early people worked together to farm.





► Many archaeologists believe that this sole of a shoe and these cave paintings (left) at Pedra Furada, Brazil, are proof that people arrived in the Americas earlier than previously thought.

The climate and natural resources of each area in which they settled affected how the groups lived. Over time, each group came to have its own culture. A **culture** is a way of life that sets a group apart from other groups. These unique cultures can sometimes be pieced together by scientists who study artifacts for clues about earlier lifeways.

READING CHECK GENERALIZE

How did farming change early peoples' lives?

Summary

There are many theories about how people got to the Americas. Climate changes forced early people to learn how to live in new environments. Once people began to farm, they also settled in villages. These early people developed different cultures based partly on where they lived.

REVIEW

- How did people first come to live in the Americas?
- How are the words **migration** and **nomad** related?
- How did changes in the environment affect large animals?

CRITICAL THINKING

- ANALYSIS SKILL** How did the importance of the Bering Strait's relative location change as the land bridge disappeared?
- ANALYSIS SKILL** Did early people hunt giant animals before or after they started farming?

- Write a Paragraph** Describe how ancient Indians might have made tools for hunting.

- COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.

Topic 1

Nomads moved to hunt.

Topic 2

Farmers lived in a village.

Similar





Read Time Lines

► WHY IT MATTERS

An easy way to see relationships between events in history is to look at a **time line**. A time line is a diagram that shows events that took place during a certain period of time. Like a calendar, a time line can help you understand the order of events and the amounts of time between events.

► WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A time line looks like a ruler marked in dates instead of inches. Like inches marked on a ruler, there are dates on a time line that are equally spaced. However, not all time lines look the same or are read in the same way. Most time lines run horizontally, or across the page. But some run vertically, or down the page. Horizontal time lines, like the one shown below, are read from left to right.

The earliest date is on the left end, and the most recent date is on the right end. The time line on page 33 is a vertical time line. It is read from top to bottom. The earliest date is at the top of the time line, and the most recent date is at the bottom.

Time lines can show events that took place during any period of time. Some time lines show events that took place over a **decade**, or a period of 10 years. Others show events that took place over a **century**, or a period of 100 years. Both a decade and a century are labeled on the horizontal time line below. Some time lines show events that took place over a **millennium**, or a period of a thousand years. A millennium is labeled on the vertical time line on page 33.

The vertical time line here shows dates from the ancient past to today. Notice the letters *B.C.* and *A.D.* in the middle of

Horizontal Time Line



the time line. Many people today identify years by whether they took place before or after the birth of Jesus Christ. The years before are labeled *B.C.*, which stands for “before Christ.” Years after the birth of Christ are labeled *A.D.* This stands for the Latin words *Anno Domini* which mean “in the year of the Lord.”

An event that happened in 100 *B.C.* took place 100 years before the birth of Christ. An event that happened in *A.D.* 100 took place 100 years after the birth of Christ. Because every year in modern times is *A.D.*, these letters are often not needed.

You may also see the letters *B.C.E.* or *C.E.* with dates. The abbreviation *B.C.E.* stands for “before the Common Era.” It is sometimes used instead of *B.C.* The abbreviation *C.E.*, which stands for “Common Era,” is sometimes used in place of *A.D.*

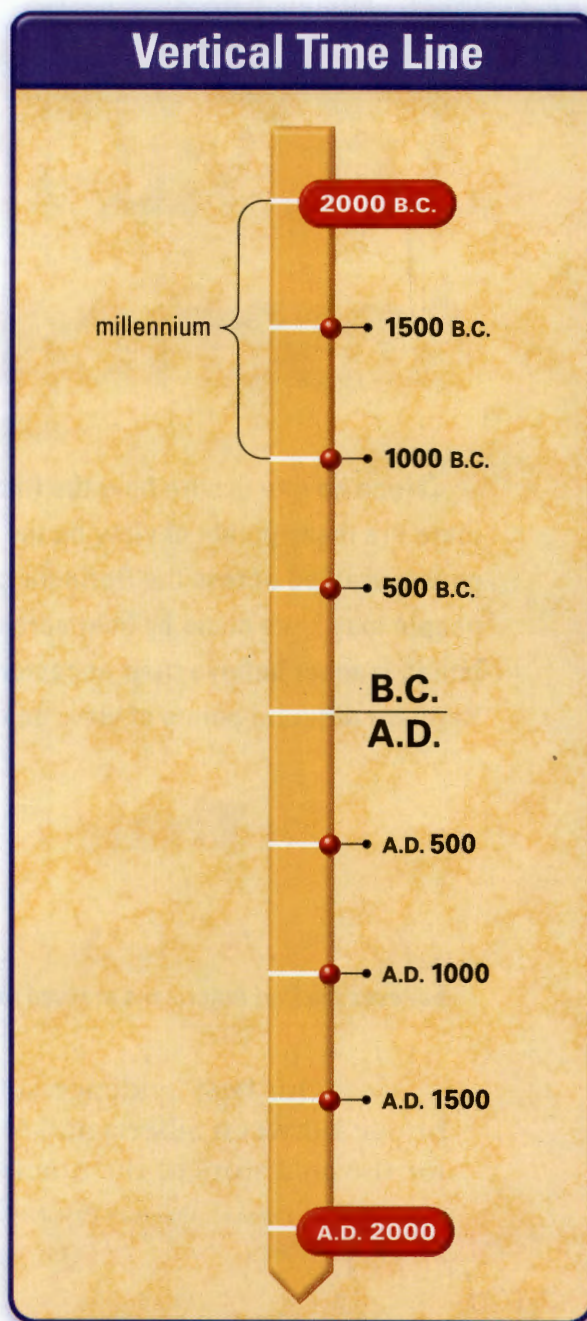
► PRACTICE THE SKILL

Use the horizontal time line on page 32 to answer the following questions.

- 1 How many centuries are shown on this time line?
- 2 What was the first year of the thirteenth century?

Use the vertical time line on this page to answer these questions.

- 3 How many millenniums are shown on this time line?
- 4 Which year came earlier, 1000 *B.C.* or 500 *B.C.*?



► APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

ANALYZE SKILL **Make It Relevant** Make a time line that shows the last 20 years in 5-year periods. Then mark on your time line important events that have taken place in your own life. Share your time line with other students.

Arrival in the Americas

Since no one is sure how the first people arrived in the Americas, there are many points of view on the subject. Some believe that the first people walked across the Beringia land bridge. Others believe early people may have come by boat across the Pacific Ocean. Some American Indian leaders believe their ancestors have always been in the Americas. Here are different points of view on this much-debated subject.

In Their Own Words

Douglas W. Schwartz, a scientist who believes the first Americans crossed over the Bering Strait

“... Our best evidence supports the view that a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska was the route of entry for the ancestors of the American Indian.”

— from *Clues to America's Past*. National Geographic Society, 1976.



▶ Early people had to travel in groups for safety.

▶ Early boat travel would have required strong boats.





VINE DELORIA, JR.

Vine Deloria, Jr., a professor of Native American Studies

“... A small group of anthropologists have now allowed that Indians, instead of marching ... over the mythical Bering land bridge, might have come by boat ... from the Asian continent to North America.”

— from *Red Earth, White Lies: Native Americans and the Myth of Scientific Fact*. Scribner, 1995.

Luther Standing Bear, Sioux Chief, describing the legend of the Sioux's beginnings

“Our legends tell us that it was ... thousands of years ago since the first man sprang from the soil in the midst of the great plains. The story says that one morning long ago a lone man awoke, face to the sun, emerging from the soil.”

— from *Land of the Spotted Eagle*. University of Nebraska Press, 1978.



LUTHER STANDING BEAR

It's Your Turn



Analyze Points of View Work with a classmate to summarize the point of view held by each author.

Make It Relevant Explain why it is important to learn about different points of view on a subject.



► Some American Indian sites are more than 10,000 years old.



• about 3,500
years ago

The Olmec civilization
becomes powerful

• about 1,700
years ago

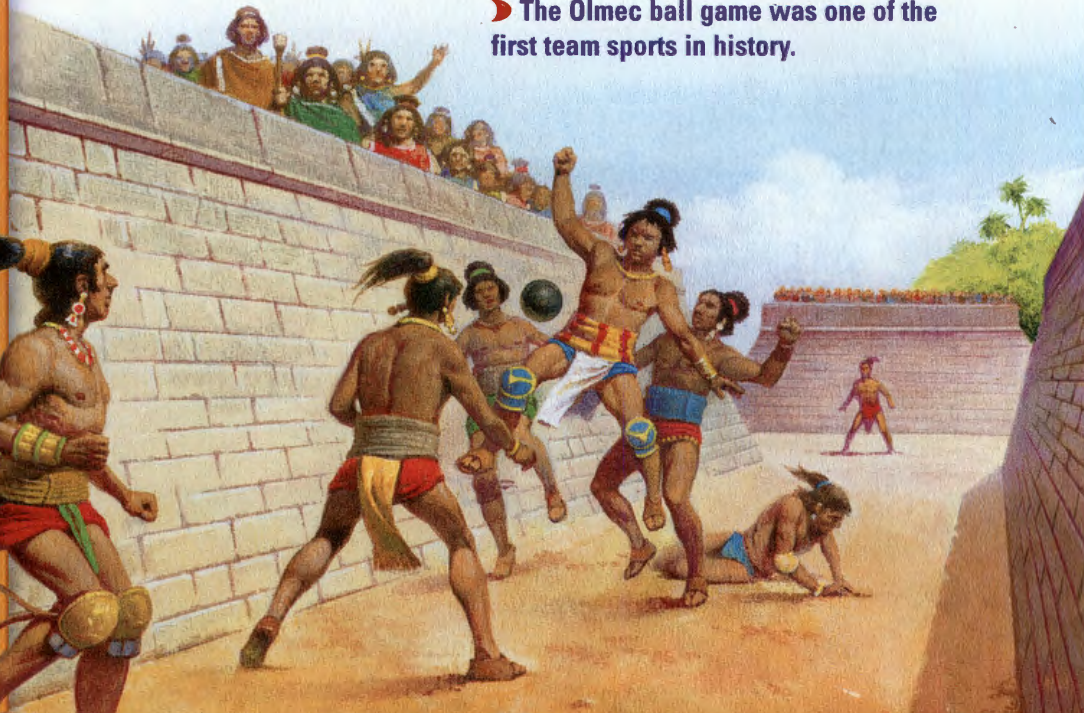
The Mayan civilization
becomes powerful

Early Civilizations

YOU ARE THERE

The crowd around you sits elbow to elbow, eagerly waiting for the game to begin. The sound of drums fills the air as the ballplayers march onto the field. Some of the ballplayers are wearing pads to protect themselves from injury. You can see why—the rubber ball they are using looks very hard. This ball game is played for honor. According to the rules of your people, the winning team will receive gifts, while the losing team will lose their lives.

► The Olmec ball game was one of the first team sports in history.



WHAT TO KNOW

In what ways did the people of the Americas create advanced civilizations?

- ✓ Explain how the location of early American civilizations affected the way that people lived.
- ✓ Describe achievements and customs of early American civilizations.

VOCABULARY

- civilization** p. 37
- government** p. 37
- custom** p. 37
- tradition** p. 38
- hieroglyph** p. 38
- class** p. 38
- pueblo** p. 40

PLACES

- San Lorenzo
- Cahokia
- Moundville

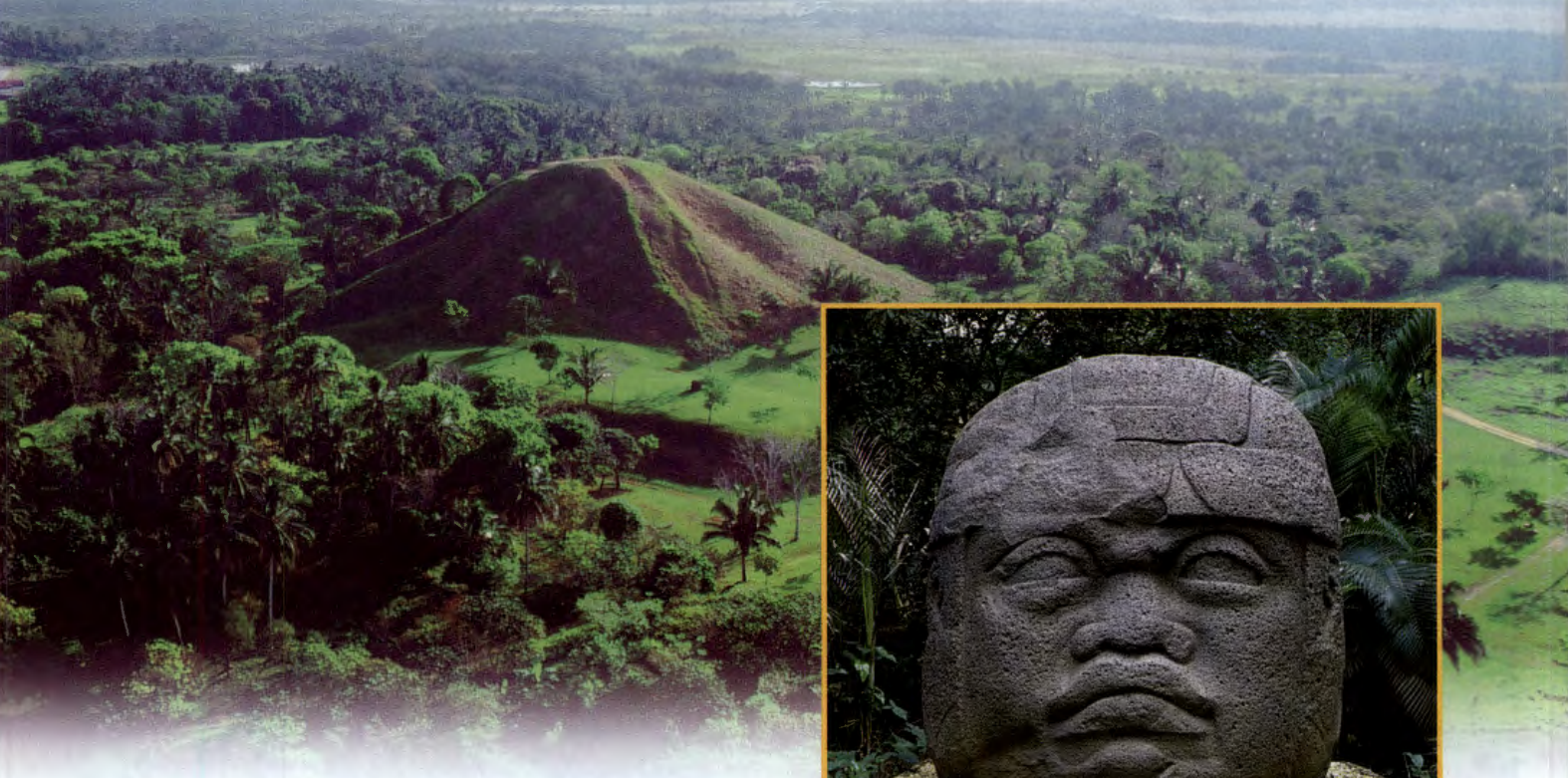


COMPARE AND CONTRAST



California
Standards

HSS 5.1, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3



► San Lorenzo (above) was once an important Olmec city. Artists there carved giant stone heads such as this one.



The Olmec

Once people began to have a more settled way of life, civilizations started to develop. A **civilization** is an advanced culture that usually has cities with well-developed kinds of learning, religion, and government. A **government** is a system for deciding what is best for a group of people. It protects members of the group, settles disagreements among them, and provides a way for the group to make rules and choose leaders.

The Olmec civilization was one of the earliest in the Americas. From about 1500 B.C. to A.D. 300, the Olmec ruled most of what is now southern Mexico. The area the Olmec lived in had a tropical climate with a rainy season and a dry season. The oldest Olmec city that archaeologists have discovered is **San Lorenzo**. Like many Olmec cities, it is located near

a river. The location of some Olmec cities near rivers suggests that the Olmec used rivers to travel between cities and build a trade system. Olmec artifacts have been found in many areas of Mexico.

A strong trade system was just one achievement of the Olmec. They also developed a counting system and a calendar to keep track of the seasons. The Olmecs depended on the rainy season to water their crops.

No one is sure why the Olmec civilization fell from power, but it clearly had a great influence on other civilizations. Today, some historians call the culture of the Olmec the “mother culture” of the Americas, because many Olmec **customs**, or ways of doing things, were continued in later civilizations.

READING CHECK 🔗 COMPARE AND CONTRAST

How was the Olmec civilization similar to our civilization today?

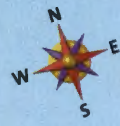


Early Civilizations of North America

PACIFIC OCEAN

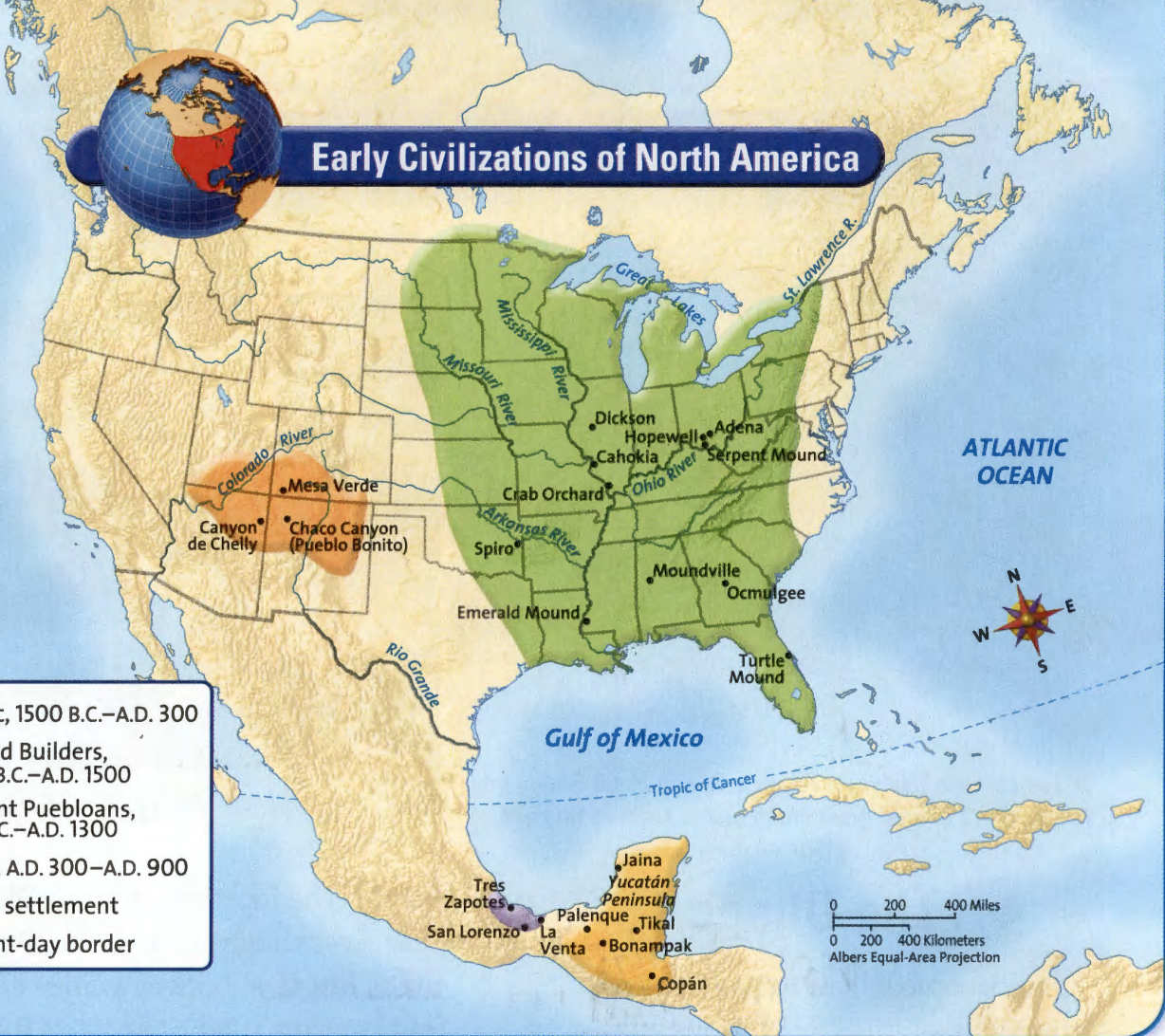
ATLANTIC OCEAN

Gulf of Mexico



0 200 400 Miles
0 200 400 Kilometers
Albers Equal-Area Projection

	Olmec, 1500 B.C.–A.D. 300
	Mound Builders, 1000 B.C.–A.D. 1500
	Ancient Puebloans, 100 B.C.–A.D. 1300
	Maya, A.D. 300–A.D. 900
	• Major settlement
	— Present-day border



ANALYSIS SKILL Analyze Maps The Mayan and Olmec civilizations both developed in what is now Mexico.

Location Where was the Mayan civilization located?

The Maya

The Mayan civilization was influenced by Olmec traditions. A **tradition** is a way of life or an idea that has been handed down from the past. Between A.D. 300 and A.D. 900, the Maya ruled much of what is now southern Mexico, Guatemala, and northern Belize. The area the Maya lived in had a tropical climate that was hot and humid.

The Maya developed their own writing system, which allowed them to tell their history. Their writing system was based on **hieroglyphs** (HY•ruh•glifs), or picture

symbols. They also used a counting system like the Olmec.

The Maya were divided into social classes. A **class** is a group of people in a society who have something in common. At the top of Mayan society were the religious leaders. Then came important families, traders, and farmers.

Scientists are not sure why the Mayan civilization fell. Some blame the fall on disease, while others think it was warfare. However, even after the Maya fell from power, their culture continued.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How were the Mayan and Olmec societies alike?

The Mound Builders

Archaeologists use the name *Mound Builders* to group together many American Indian tribes. What these groups had in common was that they all built mounds made of earth. However, their cultures, their locations, and even their reasons for building mounds differed.

The earliest Mound Builders were the Adena (uh•DEE•nuh). Their civilization was located in the Ohio River valley. It lasted from about 1000 B.C. to A.D. 200. The Adena mounds were used for burials. As more people were buried, the mounds got bigger and bigger. Some reached heights of 90 feet!

In about 300 B.C., another mound-building culture, called the Hopewell,



► A shell head

developed in what is now the central United States. Like earlier civilizations, the Hopewell built a strong trade system. Its trade paths stretched from the Rocky Mountains to Lake Superior.

The largest of the mound-building civilizations was the Mississippian. It developed in the Mississippi River valley in about A.D. 700. The largest Mississippian city was **Cahokia**, in present-day Illinois. By A.D. 1200, more than 30,000 people lived in Cahokia.

Moundville, in present-day Alabama was another large city. Religious leaders ruled the city and the surrounding area. People lived in this area from about A.D. 900 to A.D. 1500.

READING CHECK MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

What was one way that American Indian groups used mounds?

► This painting shows what a Mound Builders' settlement may have looked like.



The Ancient Pueblos

Look at the map of North America on page 38. Find the place in the Southwest where Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet. This area is called the Four Corners. Some of the first people to settle this area are known as the Ancient Pueblos (PWEH•bloh•uhnz). The climate of the area they lived in was hot and very dry.

The Ancient Pueblos started to build their civilization in about A.D. 100. They lived in houses that had many floors and many rooms. These houses were often built against canyon walls or in caves. When the Spanish arrived in the Southwest more than 1,400 years later, they called this kind of home a **pueblo**, the Spanish word for “village.”

Usually, there was no entrance on the first floor. Instead, people climbed ladders to the roof and entered from there.

In case of enemy attack, they simply pulled up the ladders.

To feed themselves, the Ancient Pueblos grew maize, beans, and pumpkins. They farmed enough maize to enable them to store extra food in special storage rooms, for use in hard times.

The Ancient Pueblos also were expert basket makers. In fact, some of their baskets were so tightly woven that they were waterproof. These baskets were used for storage and sometimes for cooking food. A person could put corn mash in a basket and then drop into it a hot stone that cooked the mash.

The Ancient Puebloan culture thrived for about 1,000 years. At the culture’s peak, the population may have been as high as 20,000.

Then people began to move away. Scientists think that a change in climate was part of the reason they left. Evidence shows that a terrible drought started in

► **Pueblo Bonito is the largest site in New Mexico’s Chaco Canyon. It covers more than two acres, rises four stories, and may have housed as many as 1,200 people.**





► At the area that is known today as Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado, early Americans carved stone villages into the canyon walls.

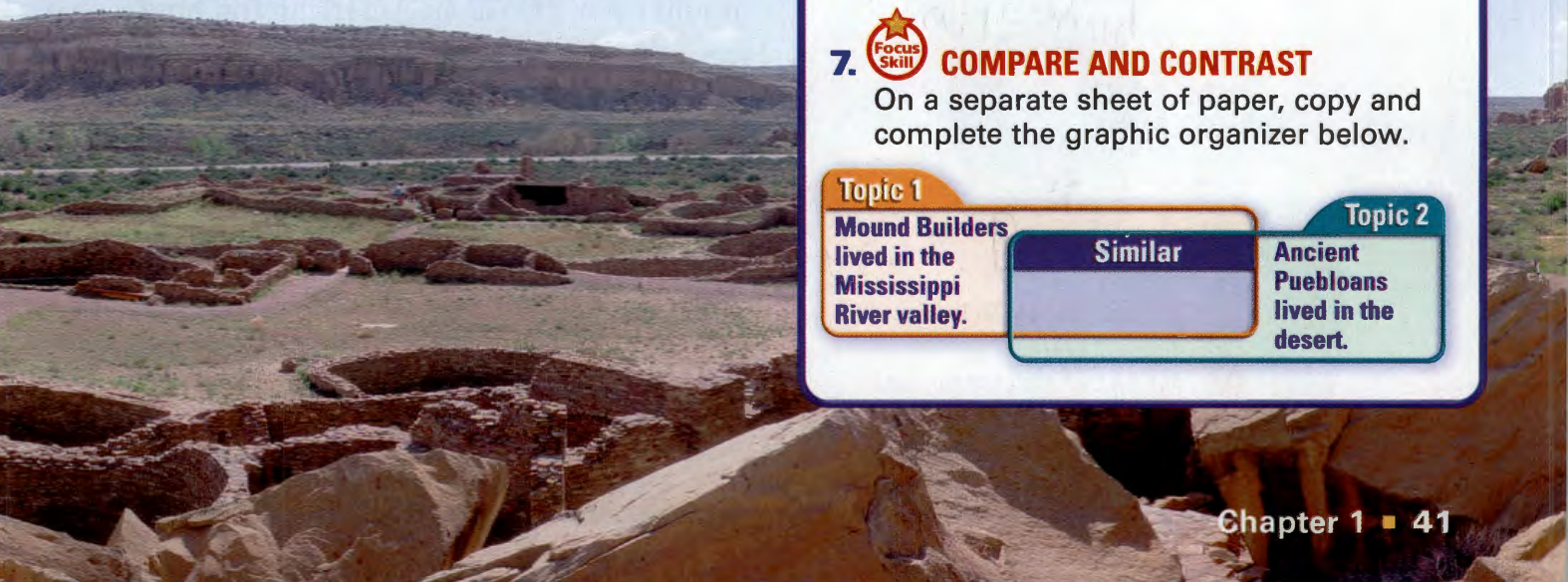
about A.D. 1276. Careful planning had helped the culture survive droughts before, but this drought lasted almost 25 years. It made the land completely dry. By A.D. 1300, the Ancient Puebloan civilization had disappeared from the Four Corners.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How was the climate of the area where the Ancient Puebloans lived different from the area where the Olmec lived?

Summary

The earliest civilizations in the Americas were influenced by the geography and climate of the areas in which the people lived. All of these civilizations developed different customs and traditions.



REVIEW

- In what ways did the people of the Americas create advanced civilizations?
- Write a description of a **pueblo**.
- What did the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian cultures have in common?
- What important form of communication helped the Maya record their history?

CRITICAL THINKING

- Why do you think some early civilizations were divided into classes?
- Draw a Plan** Imagine that you are designing a Mound Builder's city. Draw a building plan that includes mounds made of earth and other structures.

- COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.

Topic 1

Mound Builders lived in the Mississippi River valley.

Similar

Topic 2

Ancient Puebloans lived in the desert.



Use a Cultural Map

► WHY IT MATTERS

You already know that different kinds of maps can show different kinds of information. A cultural map is one that shows **cultural regions** of a place. Understanding cultural regions will help you know what the peoples who lived there had in common.

► WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

On a cultural map, regions are usually identified by colors or symbols. The map on page 43 uses color to show North America's early cultural regions. In all, there are 11 colors, each representing a different cultural region.



► Some American Indian dancers wore finger masks during certain ceremonies.

As you can tell from the map, each cultural region was home to several different American Indian groups. Each group was different from the other groups in the region. Yet the lifeways and traditions of all the groups in a region were affected by the same climate and landforms as well as the same animals and vegetation.

► PRACTICE THE SKILL

Use the map on the next page to answer these questions.

- 1 Which cultural region includes most of the eastern United States?
- 2 Which cultural region includes most of present-day New Mexico and Arizona?
- 3 Which cultural region includes most of the central United States?

► APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

ANALYSIS SKILL Partner with a classmate to play a guessing game. You and your partner should each choose an American Indian group shown on the cultural map. Then take turns asking each other questions about regions to try to figure out which group your partner chose.



Practice your map and globe skills with the **GeoSkills CD-ROM**.

about 12,000 years ago



about 12,000
years ago
People arrive in
the Americas

Reading Social Studies

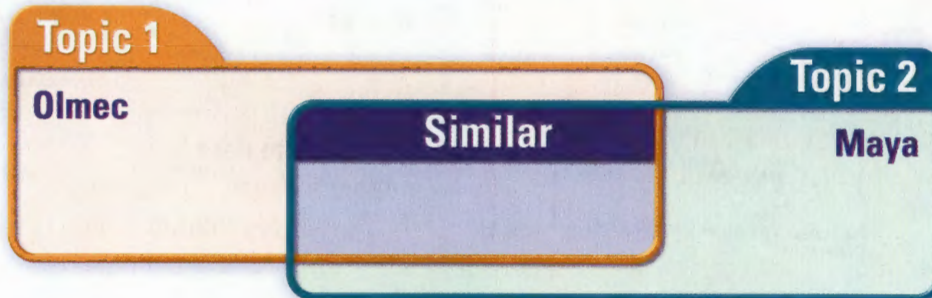
When you **compare**, you tell how two or more things are alike. When you **contrast**, you tell how they are different.



Compare and Contrast

Complete this graphic organizer to compare and contrast early civilizations in North America. A copy of this graphic organizer appears on page 12 of the Homework and Practice Book.

Early Civilizations



California Writing Prompts

Write a Persuasive Paragraph Write a paragraph that will persuade your readers that farming helped early villages grow. Give evidence to support your position.

Write a Research Report Choose one of the groups discussed in the lesson on Early Civilizations. Then research the group and write a report about it. Be sure to include information about the group's culture.

about 7,000 years ago

PRESENT



about 5,000 years ago
People begin farming in North America



about 3,500 years ago
The Olmec civilization is strong



about 3,000 years ago
Early Mound Builder groups develop

Use Vocabulary

Identify the term that correctly matches each definition.

1. an early family member
2. a story handed down from the past
3. the kind of weather a place has over a long time
4. a people's ways of doing things
5. picture symbols

climate, p. 16
 ancestor, p. 25
 legend, p. 27
 custom, p. 37
 hieroglyph, p. 38

Use the Time Line

ANALYSIS SKILL Use the chapter summary time line above to answer these questions.

6. About how long ago did people in North America start farming?
7. About how many years passed between the time when the Olmec civilization was strong and the early Mound Builder groups developed?

Apply Skills

ANALYSIS SKILL Use Latitude and Longitude

8. Use the map on page 23 to find out what state capital is located near 30°N, 85°W.

Recall Facts

Answer these questions.

9. What mountain range covers much of the eastern United States? the western United States?
10. What was Beringia?
11. What was one important achievement of the Olmecs?

Write the letter of the best choice.

12. From the Appalachian Mountains, which direction would you travel to reach the Great Plains?
 A east
 B west
 C north
 D south
13. Which statement best describes early people in North America?
 A They often hunted alone.
 B They lived in one place.
 C They hunted larger animals.
 D They built stone shelters.

Think Critically

14. **ANALYSIS SKILL** What physical features make the Intermountain Region a unique place?
15. **ANALYSIS SKILL** How is life in the Southwest today similar to the civilization of the Ancient Puebloans? How is it different?

Study Skills

ANTICIPATION GUIDE

An anticipation guide can help you anticipate, or predict, what you will learn as you read.

- ▶ Read the lesson titles and section titles. These are clues to what you will read about.
- ▶ Read the Reading Check question at the end of each section.
- ▶ Predict what you will learn as you read.

The Desert Southwest		
The Pueblo People		
Reading Check	Prediction	Correct?
In what ways were the Pueblo people like the Ancient Pueblos?	In this lesson, we will learn how the Pueblo people lived like the Ancient Pueblos.	✓
Pueblo Culture		
Reading Check	Prediction	Correct?

Apply As You Read

As you read the chapter, complete your own anticipation guide for each lesson. When you have finished reading, go back to see if your predictions were correct.



California History-Social Science
Standards, Grade 5

5.1 Students describe the major pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.