

Early Americans & Geography Test Overview - Key

Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Bering Land Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land bridge connecting northeastern Asia and present-day Alaska• Exposed after water levels fell
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Paleo-Indians	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Americans who crossed from Asia into North America sometime between 38,000 and 10,000 BC• Were hunter-gatherers
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Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movement of people or animals from one region to another<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ex. nomads, Paleo-Indians
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Hunter-gatherers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People who hunted animals and gathered wild plants for food
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climates and landscapes that surround living things
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Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A group set of common values and traditions, including language, government, and family relationships

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indigenous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A people native to a particular land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesoamerica: Maya and Aztecs • Andean: Inca
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Olmec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earliest known civilization in Mesoamerica (Olmec = OLD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1200 BC - 400 BC • Built first pyramids in the Americas
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Maya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled in the Yucatan Peninsula • Grew by trade during the Classic Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by kings • Religion is most important to them
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Classic Period*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 AD - 900 AD • Mayan civilization grew most during this time due to trade
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Fixed Society*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A person cannot move up or down from their social class. • Leader: King • Upper Class: Rich Merchants, Noble Warriors, Priests • Middle Class: Merchants, Artisans, Soldiers • Lower Class: Farmers and Laborers
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Popol Vuh*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayan creation story • Serpents created humans 3 times: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Made of Mud = failure (unable to worship) 2) Made of Wood = failure (unable to worship) 3) Made of Maize/Corn = success

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Why the Mayan empire declined?*	<p>Several theories include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warfare • Famine • Drought • Plague • Hurricane
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Mayan Achievements*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Scientific</u>: Calendar that contains 365 days; study of astronomy • <u>Mathematics</u>: Created a number system using zero as a placeholder • <u>Writing</u>: Recorded their history with dates
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Ollama*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesoamerican Ball Game • Used for three different reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For sport 2. To replace War 3. For religious rituals
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Aztecs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled in the Central Mexico <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by an emperor • Known for their warrior spirit • Believed in many gods
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nomadic*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A people who do live permanently in one place but move around <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aztecs before they found Lake Texcoco
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Lake Texcoco*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site where the Aztecs settled and built their city after being banished • Sign from the Gods: Eagle perched on a cactus holding a serpent in its mouth

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Tenochtitlan*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the Aztecs capital city built on the shores of Lake Texcoco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built aqueducts (bring fresh water to island) Built chinampas (increased farmland)
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Human sacrifice*	<p>Practiced most prominently by the Aztecs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloods/hearts nourished the gods Considered an honor to be sacrificed Need for blood increased with military expansion since captives were often the ones being sacrificed
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Aqueducts*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aztecs built these structures to bring fresh water to their capital, Tenochtitlan
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Chinampas*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aztecs built these floating islands to create more farmland
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Inca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began in the Andes Mountains in South America Empire stretched from northern Ecuador to central Chile
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Iroquois League	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created by the Iroquois Indians, who were farmers, hunters, and traders A confederation/alliance of five tribes to wage war and make peace with non-Iroquois people Made them one of the most powerful peoples

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Shawnee*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe native to the Ohio Valley (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana)
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Delaware*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe native to territory in New Jersey
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Sioux*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe native to the Great Plains region (Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa)
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Apache*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe native to the Southwestern region (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas)
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Comanche*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribe native to the Southwest region (New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas)
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Matrilineal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traced ancestry through mothers, not their fathers

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Pueblos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="824 306 1446 373">• Above ground houses made of heavy clay called adobe
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Kivas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="824 644 1357 674">• Underground ceremonial chambers
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Totems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="824 959 1219 989">• Ancestor or animal spirits
Term/Idea/People/Place/Event	Notes
Teepees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="824 1276 1174 1306">• Cone shaped shelters
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Native American Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="824 1533 1511 1600">• Religion - linked to nature; spiritual forces were everywhere <li data-bbox="824 1610 1507 1677">• Property - land was to be shared by everyone, but crops grown were individually owned
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