

Ch 1 Three Worlds Meet

Section 1 Peopling the Americas

Ancient Peoples Come to the Americas

The First Americans

- 22,000 years ago hunters cross from Asia to Alaska over Beringia
 - Ended 10,000 years ago because the access was no longer possible on foot

Hunting and Gathering

- Inhabitants hunt large animals to support themselves until climate warms
- 12,000 to 10,000 years ago hunt small game, gather nuts and berries

Agriculture Develops

- Planting of crops begins in central Mexico 10,000 to 5,000 years ago, complex societies were now possible. A surplus of food was needed
- Some cultures remain **nomadic**—moving in search of food and water

Complex Societies Flourish in the Americas

Early Cultures of the Americas

- About 3,000 years ago, inhabitants begin forming large communities

Empires of Middle and South America

- The **Olmec** flourish 1200 to 400 B.C. along Gulf of Mexico
- A.D. 250 to 900, **Maya** culture thrives in Guatemala and Yucatán
- **Aztec** begin building civilization in the Valley of Mexico in 1200s
- **Inca** establish empire around A.D.1200 in western South America
- Cultures have cities or ceremonial centers; some have writing

Ancient Desert Farmers

- About 3,000 years ago, groups begin growing crops in Southwest
- Groups establish civilizations, 300 B.C. to A.D. 1400
 - **Hohokam** settle in river valleys
 - **Anasazi** live in mesa tops, cliff sides, canyons
 - both known for their development of desert farming

Mound Builders

- In East, **Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian** establish trading societies
- Adena, Hopewell build huge burial and animal-shaped mounds
- Mississippian people build giant pyramidal mounds