**North America Before the European Invasions**

**Big Questions**

* How did Native Americans come to live in North America 10-20k years before the arrival of Europeans?
  + They came to America in the form of a land bridge that connected Alaska to to Russia (**Beringia**). They most likely moved across the land bridge while hunting large mammals.
* What similarities existed among pre-Columbian Indian groups? What factors explain differences among these Indian groups?
  + There were similar creation stories, burial rituals, and small villages that groups of Indians lived in. There were geological boundaries that isolated tribes from each other.
* How did events in Europe’s early modern period fundamentally structure United States history, even before there was a United States?
  + Europeans believed that Native American culture was homogenous and static where their’s was flexible.

**Discussion: Archeology and History**

* What are the key differences between archeology and history?
  + History pertains to the written down events that took place and archeology will focus on the physical remains left behind by an indigenous people.
* Why have historians needed to rely on archaeology to uncover the history of Ancient Americans?
  + Native Americans did not have a written language and was only transmitted in the form of speech and artifacts

**Notes:**

* We have arrived on very late to the cosmic party
  + December 31st last minutes and seconds of the year
* Clovis points were spearheads used by Paleo-Indians



* Early preservation techniques included submerging the bodies filled with stones in icy lakes
* Agriculture
  + Pre: Paleolithic (Hunter/Gatherer)
* B.C : Before Christ
* A.D : Anno Domini
* There is no year 0; starts at 1
* B.C.E : Before Common Era
* C.E : Common Era
* BP: Before Present
* Native Americans were seen in a negative light in 18th and 19th century
  + This was conveyed in the reenactments done by Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show.
  + The poster shows natives attempting to raid the caravans of women and children which in most cases never happened. This was just a way settlers justified their killing of native americans. To them they were in the way
* The Native American culture before the Europeans was very advanced
* Pre-Columbian American societies used xenophobia to their advantage and self-gain to progress through the New World. This in turn also played into Black sentiment.
* There were about 4 million Native Americans at the time of European contact

**Southwestern Cultures**

* Mogollon
  + A dozen pit houses
  + Had houses that were ancestors to the **kiva** houses made later on
* Hohokam culture
  + Rise in the salinity of the soil lead to the decline in crop return
* Anasazi culture
  + Pueblo Bonito
    - Found in Chaco Canyon, NM
    - Huge stone walled pueblos
    - Similar to an apartment complex
    - They had an understanding of summer and winter
      * Likely believed in higher powers
    - Drought lead to the dispersal of the Anasazi culture
* Burial mounds were created for dead people
  + Only the elite seem to have gotten this treatment given the amount of time and effort it took to construct
  + There also seemed to be a chiefdom
    - A division of power and labor
  + Hopewell culture originated in Ohio and this is where the majority of the mounds were made

**Europeans move out of the Periphery**

* Europeans start to trade a lot more with neighboring countries and extend that to other continents
* With the Black Plague, there were more resources for the population to excel
  + Food, land, etc
* The Printing Press allows for documents to be available for the masses
  + The Bible is then translated into English
* Iberia had been part of the Islamic world during the middle ages. Christian monarchs completed the “Re-conquest” by the 15th century.
* Queen Isabella and Ferdinand’s marriage allowed the Spanish to exploit the resources of Spain
* **Taino:** The indigenous people who inhabited the Bahamas and the Greater Antilles islands like Cuba, Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic), Puerto Rico, and Jamaica before Christopher Columbus and his crew ever set foot there.
* The Spanish toppled both the Aztec Empire (**Motecuzoma**) and the Incan Empire (**Atahualpa**)
* Smallpox
  + Decimated the Aztecs after Cortes’ initial departure
  + Tainos in the Caribbean also wiped out
  + Unintended side effect of the Spanish’s visit
* Taino concepts that still remain in North American society
  + Canoe, hammock, hurricane, barbecue, maize (corn), tobacco
* It was very lucrative for the Spanish to be in the New World
* **Piece of Eight**: The spanish dollar, manufactured in Mexico and Bolivia, made from silver from the spanish empire. The 'eight' refers to the number of pieces into which each coin could be cut in order to give change
  + The amount of silver needed was insane
  + The Spanish enslaved the Natives to mine the silver for them and treated them horribly
* **Transatlantic Exchange**
  + To the New World: Christianity, iron, horses, firearms, sailing hips, smallpox, measles, people
  + From the New World: Gold, silver, Ancient American goods, furs, corn, tobacco, ideas, syphilis, people
* There was also a new class system that emerges and is dictated by who your parents were and where you were born
* **The Protestant Reformation**: Martin Luther posts his 95 theses on the Church’s door.

**Terms to Review**

* The New World: the Americas discovered by Europeans in the late 13th century
* Archaeology as history: studying remains left by ancient people is the only way we can learn about who they were
* Anasazi: the Native American culture who developed Pueblo Bonito which was similar to an apartment complex. There were many religious buildings called kivas (people got high as hell)
* Cahokia: refers to the place where Mississippian culture thrived before European explorers landed in the Americas. It was a large central hub for Native American culture and thrived as it farmed off the Mississippi River
* Christopher Columbus: A Spanish explorer who was credited for finding the Americas
* Conquistadores: people who came from Spain to claim land for their motherland
* Tainos: people of modern day Florida who were the first to be encountered by Christopher Columbus.
* Smallpox: a disease brought by the Spanish that kill a large chunk of the population
* Protestant Reformation: a shift from relying on the Catholic Church to interpret the Bible for the common folk to reading the Bible for themselves. The Printing Press helped push this agenda.