Prehistoric American civilization

* Not that much evidence
* We know people didn’t start there
  + started somewhere else and migrated
* Best guess
  + people came from asia by walking
  + during the last two ice ages the sea level dropped
    - allowed for people to walk over land bridge
* Earth is more likely to be in an ice age than not
* Probably hunter-gatherers
  + followed the mammoths over the bering land bridge
* Other Theories
  + maybe arrived from pacific island dwellers
    - lived off the sea
    - sailed over the pacific over time
  + more than one might be true
  + ancient aliens!! Oof
* Agricultural revolution
  + some developed agriculture faster
    - those were more successful
  + some of the earliest writing is int the torah
    - israeli tribes were bullies by agriculture
    - then they settled
  + primary crops of the new world
    - maize (corn)
    - potatoes
* Mayas
  + yucatan peninsula
  + decentralized unlike egypt
  + more of a cultural region
    - large differences in dialect
  + polytheistic
    - varied region to region
    - especially in name
  + organized around the city-states
  + they made good calendars
    - bc math
  + most socially dominant civilisation in this part of the world for ~2000 years
  + mayan civilization collapsed ~900 ce
* Aztecs
  + southern Mexico
  + 1325 began constructing Tenochtitlan
  + came from the north and migrated down
    - were hunter-gatherers
  + absorbed the culture of the people they conquered
    - kinda like the Romans
  + Aztec alphabet was prolly stolen from others
  + tributary society
    - a society that benefits significantly from the heath they get from others whether thru goods, labour, or slavery
  + Tribute instead of trade
    - tribute helps one part over the other
    - trade benefits both equally
  + Aztecs would get protection money from the people they conquered
    - breeded resentment
  + a lot of the Aztecs neighbours fought against them with the Spanish
    - Cortez may have had 90,000 Natives against them
  + Aztec capital Tenochtitlán
    - built on a lake
      * we don’t know why
    - floating on it
    - the whole thing may have had ~5 million people
  + human sacrifice
    - dates back a long time
    - a lot of people did it in Native cultures
    - hundreds if not thousands on the biggest sacrifice day
    - many different religions include different types of sacrifice
* Incas
  + lived west of the andes mountains
  + Where Chile Peru are
  + same as the Rockies
  + at its height was as tall as the us was wide
  + lived in a very bad place for thriving
  + built a lot of roads
  + used terrace farming to survive
    - terrace farming allows for different crops
      * main difference is temperature
      * may help with health
  + Tributary society
    - helped with their demise
  + Llama
    - domesticated
    - one of the only domesticated animals in North America
* North American civilizations
  + no huge ones
  + very few people
  + agriculture tribes more advanced
    - not all of them were this
    - some semi nomadic
* Regions
  + far north mostly fishers
* Cherokee (se)
  + assimilated into new civilizations easier
* Iroquois (ne)
  + east coast
  + cultural area
  + first people europeans come into contact with
  + .Lived in longhouses
    - lots of families in one room
* Pueblo (sw) or Anasazi more generally
  + deserts of the far south west
    - hard to farm
  + flood plain irrigation
    - rivers didn’t always have water
    - dug irrigation trenched along the rivers
    - deep narrow trenches bc surface area
  + built cities out of adobe bricks
  + built into caves because temp
* Great plains indians
  + nomadic
  + lots of big game
  + hunted with spears
    - melee combat
  + lived in tepees
  + might’ve used traps
  + europeans arrived with horse
  + died out with the buffalo
* Far west
  + barely living off seeds, nuts, roots, & small game
  + children are a burden
  + low tech
  + hunters and gatherers
  + no bows
  + buried children than infant care
* Spanish guessed the North American population was 2-10 million in 1492
* England was a middling european nation
* Vast majority of Natives were in South America
* Norse made it to America first
  + from Scandinavia
    - Denmark
    - Norway
    - Sweden
  + Leif Erickson
    - 1001ce
      * Vinland
    - Colony failed