

Chapter 6

The Settlement of the Americas and the Pacific Islands

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Chapter Chronology

.....
c. 20,000–10,000 B.C.E.

Arrival of ancestral Native Americans
.....

c. 13,000–3500 B.C.E.

Paleoindian period in the Americas
.....

c. 13,500–8000 B.C.E.

Clovis and Folsom hunting cultures
.....

c. 8000–1000 B.C.E.

Archaic gathering cultures
.....

c. 6000–1800 B.C.E.

Agriculture begins, spreads
.....

c. 1200–300 B.C.E.

Olmec civilization
.....

c. 1000–1 B.C.E.

Chavín civilization
.....

c. 1000–200 B.C.E.

Early Woodland civilization
.....

c. 1000 B.C.E.–1200

Settlement of the Polynesian Pacific Islands
.....



The Earliest Americans (Slide 1 of 3)

- Migrants from Asia came in three to four waves, 20,000-10,000 BCE
 - First **Amerindian** group came from northeast Asia; spread from Canada to South America
 - Second group came from Central Asia; some settled in Western Canada, others (Navajo and Apaches went to American Southwest)
 - Last group came from northeast Asia and went to Canada and Alaska (Inuits)
- Most widely accepted theory: They crossed **Beringia** land bridge during last Ice Age

The Earliest Americans (Slide 2 of 3)

Paleoindian America (pre-agrarian)

- **Paleoindian** hunters could find abundant food in America
- **Clovis Culture** – earliest-known hunting culture
 - Used Clovis points – larger notched spearheads to kill big game

The Earliest Americans (Slide 3 of 3)

North America's **Archaic Period** (8000-2000 BCE)

- Conditions warmer and drier, so people depended on gathering as game disappeared
- Tools and weapons
 - Folsom points – smaller spearheads needed when megafauna died out
 - Hammer stones to break bones for marrow
 - **Atlatls** -- spear throwers
- Little is known about social organization in this period
 - Probably small, isolated, highly mobile family groups
 - Separation of these human communities led to cultural and language differences

Early Woodland Societies

Woodland Civilizations

- East of the Mississippi, 1000 BCE – 1000 CE
- Began to cultivate wild plants and settle in villages
- Adopted bow and arrow in place of atlatl

Adena Culture (1000-200 BCE)

- Across present-day Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York, W. Virginia
- Unique practices of Adena
 - Cremated their dead or buried them in mounds
 - Made plain pottery

Agricultural Revolution in the Americas

(Slide 1 of 3)

- Result of environmental change (end of Ice Age, drier climate)
- Agriculture developed independently in both Mexico and Peru, 6000-5500 BCE
 - Mexico: Maize, chili, pumpkins, beans
 - Peru: Potato
- **Maize cultivation** spread along trade routes; maize became staple grain of native Americans
- Technological and material limitations:
 - Stone tools
 - Lack of draft animals
 - Absence of wheeled vehicles, pulleys

Agricultural Revolution in the Americas

(Slide 2 of 3)

- Innovations to improve agriculture
 - Digging sticks, foot hoes
 - Artificial islands made in the swamps in Mexico
 - Complex **irrigation systems** and terracing in Peru
- Animals bred for food
 - Mesoamerica – turkeys
 - Andes – guinea pigs, **llamas**
- High productivity and good nutrition contributed to the rise of great civilizations

Agricultural Revolution in the Americas

(Slide 3 of 3)

- Agriculture firmly established by end of Archaic Period (2000 BCE)
- Neolithic food producers
 - Developed new crafts: weaving, basketry, pottery
 - Lived in settled villages with permanent buildings, e.g. **pit houses**
 - Held periodic regional meetings
- Later, meeting houses evolved into ceremonial centers and trading hubs
 - Olmec civilization in Mesoamerica
 - Chavín civilization in South America



Early Mesoamerican Civilizations

- **Mesoamerica** (Middle America)
 - Central Mexico and Central America (Yucatan/Guatemala)
 - Earliest civilizations located on elevated plateaus or tropical lowlands
- **Olmec Civilization** (1200-300 BCE)
 - Located in southeastern Mexico
 - Started as ceremonial hub
 - Cities were religious centers with pyramids, temples, palaces
 - Authoritarian theocratic government with religious elite
 - Traded rubber, pottery, ceramics for obsidian, jade, cacao beans
 - Unique features: feline gods, jaguar revered, basalt heads
 - Legacy: writing and number system, calendar, maize tortilla, ritual blood-letting, sacred ballgames



South American Civilizations (Slide 1 of 2)

- Pre-Columbian Peru a complex mosaic of ethnic and linguistic groups
 - Diverse ecology
 - 20,000 ft mountains separate Pacific Ocean from Amazon rainforest
- No writing system
- First settlement unclear
 - Coastal fisheries (3800-3300 BCE)
 - Agricultural communities on Pacific Coast by 2000 BCE
 - In arid Andes highlands by 1800 BCE
- Collective food basket more nutritious than Mesoamerica:
 - Fish from Pacific Ocean,
 - Tubers and quinoa from highlands (later maize)
 - Fruit from tropical forests



South American Civilizations (Slide 2 of 2)

- Metallurgy – gold, silver, copper, some bronze
- Cotton and wool textiles
- Production women's work
- Religious sites for worship of spirits in nature, ancestors
 - Mummified remains also revered
 - Wrapped in Peruvian textiles
- Knotted abacus-like cords – quipus – means of calculating and recording numerical data
- Trade with Mesoamerica brought maize by 1800 BCE
 - Staple crop and used to make beer
- North-central coast saw rival chiefdoms after 1800 BCE
 - Cities with pyramids, plazas, hydrographic systems



Early Andean Chiefdoms (Slide 1 of 3)

- Located between Peruvian coast and Andean foothills
- Great variety of terrains: coastal plains, lush tropical river valleys, grassy plateaus, frigid mountains
- Each area developed ingenious means to exploit resources
- Traded a variety of nutritious foods:
 - Fishmeal (coast)
 - Potatoes, root vegetables (highlands)
 - Fruit, sweet potatoes, pineapples, manioc (tropical forests)
 - **Quinoa**, native grain, used as fodder
 - Later, maize became a staple

Early Andean Chiefdoms (Slide 2 of 3)

- As coastal regions grew drier, people moved inland
 - Learned to divert rivers to irrigate crops
 - Grew cotton, squash, lima beans, coca, chili
- Intensive agriculture with food surpluses supported elites who
 - Organized village clans
 - Oversaw irrigation
 - Supervised religious activities and ceremonial centers

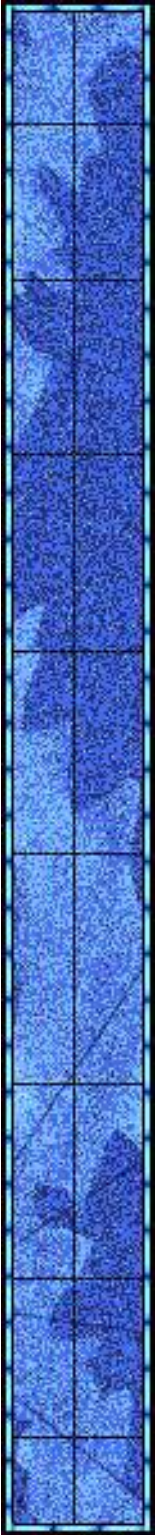


Early Andean Chiefdoms (Slide 3 of 3)

- Rival chiefdoms arose after 1800 BCE
- Cities had U-shaped ceremonial centers
 - Religious sites had streams, gardens, pyramids to emulate nature, the abode of Andean spirits
 - Cloth-wrapped mummies of ancestors were revered
- **Peruvian textiles** -- exquisite Andean art
 - Used as status symbol
 - Weaving was labor of religious devotion
 - Means of spreading culture and religion
- Andeans used **quipus** (knotted ropes) to calculate and record data
- Also crafted braided rope bridges over Andean canyons

The Chavín (1000-200 BCE) (Slide 1 of 2)

- Similar to contemporary Olmec civilization
- Use of **llama** facilitated trade and led to construction of roads
- Chavín hegemony due to trade and cultural exchange, rather than political power or military might
- Priests organized irrigation projects, supervised labor force
- Religion centered on worship of feline/eagle/serpent god
 - Priests, dressed as jaguars or eagles staged elaborate ceremonies with smoke and waterworks



The Chavín (1000-200 BCE) (Slide 2 of 2)

- Chavin de Wantar – capital city
 - 10,000 ft. above sea level
 - Strategic location on trade routes
 - Pilgrimage site with terraced shrine and blunt-tipped pyramid
- Chavin successfully fed dense population in hard-to-reach locations
- Chavin culture collapsed due to
 - Overpopulation
 - Increased social stratification
 - Rising militarism
- Influenced succeeding Peruvian kingdoms



Polynesians and the Settlement of Oceanias (Slide 1 of 2)

Austronesians

- Language group – Ancestors of Polynesians, Indonesians, Malaysians
- Used stone and shell tools
- Built rafts, boats, outrigger canoes with sewn planks
- Developed uncanny navigation skills
- Migrated to coasts and islands of the Pacific Ocean, c. 3000 BCE
 - Valued exploration and colonization
 - Spread Neolithic culture (grew yams, taro; raised pigs and chicken; fished)
 - Developed trade networks



Polynesians and the Settlement of Oceanias (Slide 2 of 2)

- **Lapita Culture, c. 1500 BCE**
 - Islands north of New Guinea
 - Descendants were Polynesians
 - Built large double-hulled outrigger canoes that could carry colonizers to distant islands
- **Austronesians of Madagascar**
 - Gained iron technology from Africa, c. 500 BCE
 - Part of Indian Ocean trade network
 - Introduced southeast Asian yam to Africa