

CHAPTER 16 Section 1 (pages 441–445)

North American Societies

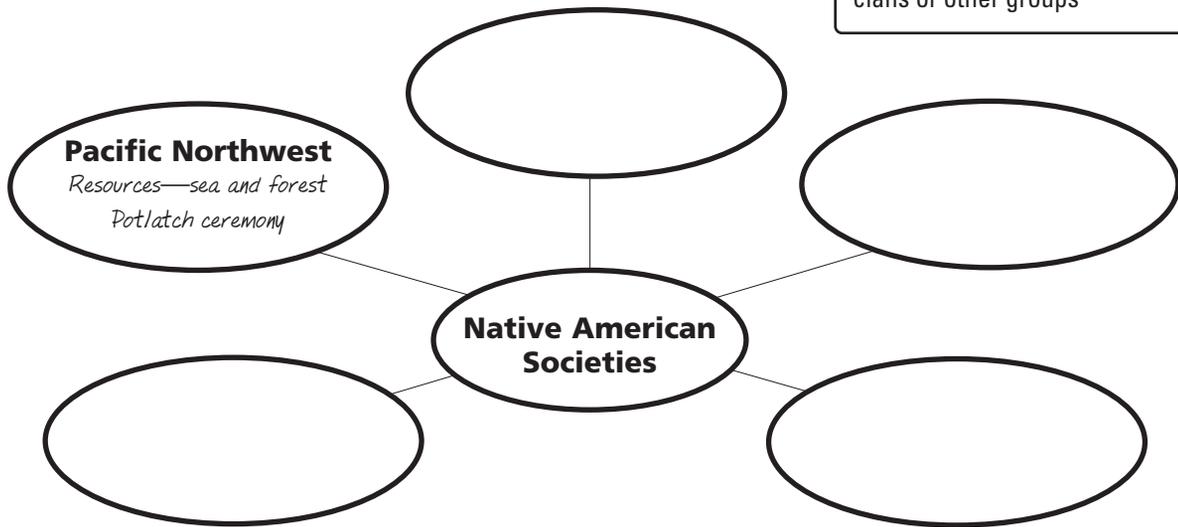
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about diverse societies in Africa.

In this section, you will read about diverse societies in North America.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on Native American societies.



TERMS AND NAMES

potlatch Ceremonial giving practiced by some Native American societies in the Pacific Northwest

Anasazi Early Native American people who lived in the Southwest

pueblos Villages of large apartment-like buildings made of clay and stone by peoples of the American Southwest

Mississippian Related to the Mound Builder culture that flourished in North America between A.D. 800 and 1500

Iroquois Native American peoples from the eastern Great Lakes region of North America who formed an alliance in the late 1500s

totems Animals or other natural objects that serve as symbols of clans or other groups

Complex Societies in the West; Mound Builders and Other Woodland Cultures (pages 441–444)

Where did different Native American societies arise?

Between about 40,000 and 12,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers moved from Asia to North America. (At that time the two continents had a land connection.) These were the first Americans. They spread throughout North and South America. They had many different ways of life, each suited to the place where they lived.

The Pacific Northwest stretches from modern Oregon to Alaska. The peoples who lived there used the rich resources of the region. The sea was the most important of these resources. The people there hunted whales. They also gathered food from the forests on the coast. The people of the Pacific Northwest developed societies in which differences in wealth led to the creation of social classes. From time to time, they performed a ceremony called the **potlatch**. In this ceremony, wealthy families could show their rank and prosperity by giving food, drink, and gifts to the community.

The peoples of the Southwest faced a harsh environment. The *Hohokam* people *irrigated*, or watered, their crops. Their use of pottery and baskets showed that they had contact with the Mesoamerican people to the south.

The **Anasazi** lived where the present-day states of Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico meet. They built groups of houses in the shallow caves that broke up the rocky walls of deep canyons. By the 900s, the Anasazi were living in **pueblos**. Pueblos were villages with large, apartment-style groupings. They were made of stone and clay baked in the sun. The Anasazi did not have horses, mules, or the wheel. They relied on human power to make their pueblos. They had small windows to keep out the hot sun. One of the largest pueblos had more than 600 rooms and probably housed about 1,000 people.

Many Anasazi pueblos were abandoned around 1200. Later peoples—including the Hopi and Zuni—living in this area continued the traditions of the Anasazi.

In the woods east of the Mississippi River, another culture arose. These people are called the *Mound Builders*. They built large mounds of earth that were filled with copper and stone artwork. When seen from above, some mounds revealed the shapes of animals. The **Mississippians** were a people who lived later in this area. They built thriving villages, such as Cahokia. In the center of Cahokia was a flat-topped pyramid with a temple on top.

The peoples of the northeastern woodlands had many different cultures. They often fought for control of land. Some groups formed *alliances* to put an end to this fighting. The most successful of these alliances was set up in the late 1500s by the **Iroquois** and was called the Iroquois League. The league linked five tribes in upper New York.

1. Explain the cultural differences between the Anasazi and the Mississippians.

Cultural Connections (pages 444–445)

How were Native American groups similar culturally?

These North American groups had some common features. Trade linked people of all regions of North America. Religious ideas were similar across the continent as well. Nearly all native North Americans thought that the world was full of spirits and that people had to follow certain *rituals* and customs to live in peace. Native Americans also shared great respect for the land, which they did not believe that people could own.

They also shared an emphasis on the family as the most important social unit. Family included parents, children, grandparents, and other relatives. In some tribes, families were linked together with others who shared a common ancestor. These larger groups are called *clans*. Clans were often identified with a **totem**. A totem is a natural object or animal that a person, clan, or family uses to show its identity.

2. Name three features shared by Native American groups.

CHAPTER 16 Section 2 (pages 446–451)

Maya Kings and Cities

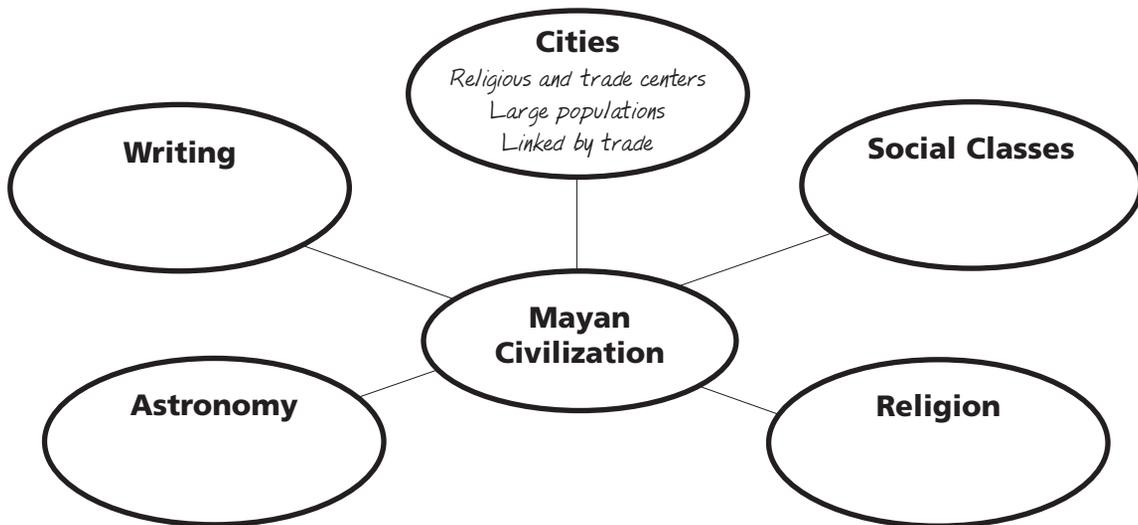
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about societies in North America.

In this section, you will read about the Maya civilization in Mexico and Central America.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on Maya civilization.



TERMS AND NAMES

Tikal Maya city in present-day Guatemala

glyph Picture symbol used as part of a writing system

codex Book with bark-paper pages; only three of these ancient Maya books have survived

Popul Vuh Book containing a Maya story of creation

Maya Create City-States (pages 446–447)

Who were the Maya?

A great civilization arose in what is today southern Mexico and northern Central America. This was the Maya civilization. It appeared around A.D. 250. Between then and 900, the Maya built large cities such as **Tikal** and Copán. Each city was independent and ruled by a god-king. Each city was a religious center as well as a trade center for the area around it. These cities were large. Tens of thousands of people lived in these cities. The cities were full of palaces, temples, and pyramids. *Archaeologists* have found at least 50 Maya cities.

Trade linked these cities. Among the trade goods were salt, *flint*, feathers, shells, cotton cloth, and ornaments made of jade. Cacao beans, which are used to make chocolate, were sometimes used as money. Maize, beans, and squash were the main foods.

Maya society was divided into social classes. The best warriors and priests were at the top. The merchants and craft workers were at the next level. Peasant farmers—the majority of the people—were at the bottom.

1. What is known about Maya cities?

Religion Shapes Maya Life

(pages 447–448)

How did religion shape Maya life?

The Maya religion was at the center of their society. There were many gods, including one for each day. The actions of the day's god could be predicted, they thought, by following a calendar. The Maya sometimes cut themselves to offer their blood to the gods in sacrifice. Sometimes they killed enemies and sacrificed them.

The Maya religion led to the development of mathematics, calendars, and astronomy. Maya math included the idea of zero. They had two calendars. One calendar was religious, and it had 13 20-day months. The other calendar was based on the sun. It had 18 months consisting of 20 days each. The Maya linked the two together to identify days that would bring good fortune.

Maya astronomy was very accurate. They observed the sun, moon, and stars to make their calendars as accurate as possible. They calculated the time it takes the earth to revolve around the sun almost perfectly.

The Maya also developed the most advanced writing system in the ancient Americas. Maya writing was made up of about 800 symbols, or **glyphs**. They used their writing system to record important historical events. They carved in stone or recorded events in a bark-paper book known as a **codex**. Three of these ancient books still survive. A famous Maya book called the **Popul Vuh** records a Maya story of the creation of the world.

2. How does Maya writing reflect Maya culture?

Mysterious Maya Decline

(page 449)

Why did the civilization decline?

In the late 800s, the Maya civilization began to decline. Historians do not know why. One explanation may be that warfare between the different city-states disrupted Maya society. The wars interrupted trade and drove many people out of the cities into the jungle. Another may be that the soil became less productive due to intensive farming over a long time. Whatever the cause, the Maya became a less powerful people. They continued to live in the area, but their cities were no longer the busy trade and religious centers they had been.

3. Name two reasons that may explain the Maya civilization's decline.

CHAPTER 16 Section 3 (pages 452–458)

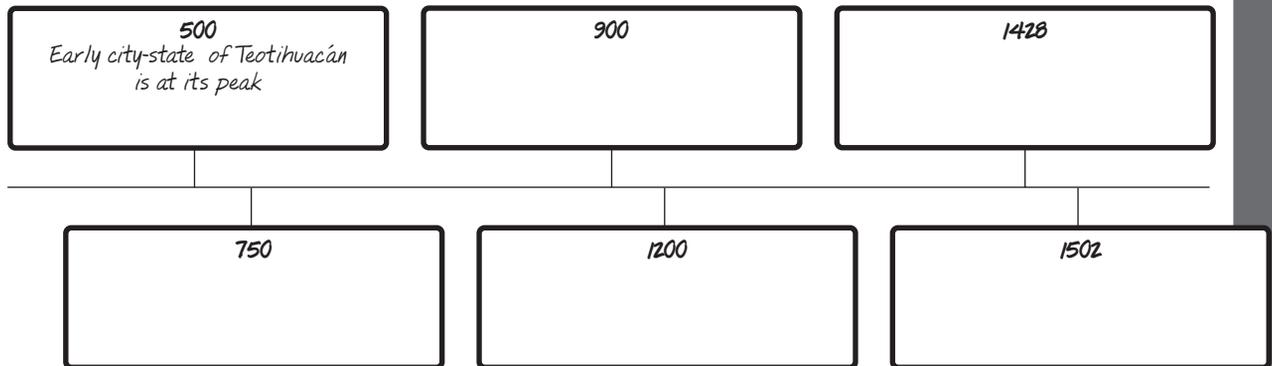
The Aztecs Control Central Mexico

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about Maya civilization. In this section, you will read about societies that arose in central Mexico, including the Aztecs.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on the peoples and empires of Central Mexico.



TERMS AND NAMES

obsidian Hard, volcanic glass used by early peoples to make sharp weapons

Quetzalcoatl Toltec god.

Triple Alliance Association of city-states that led to the formation of the Aztec Empire

Montezuma II Ruler under whom the Aztec Empire weakened

The Valley of Mexico (pages 452–453)

What civilizations arose in the Valley of Mexico?

The Valley of Mexico is a mountain valley more than a mile above sea level. It is a good place for people to settle because it has lakes and fertile soil. An early city-state called *Teotihuacán* (“City of the Gods”) arose in this area in the first century A.D. The city had between 150,000 and 200,000 people at its peak in the sixth century.

The city was the center of a major trade network. The most important trade item was **obsidian**. This green or black volcanic glass was used to make sharp weapons. The huge Pyramid of the Sun, which measured some 200 feet high and 3,000 feet around its base, dominated the city. By 750,

Teotihuacán was abandoned. The reasons why are not clear.

The next people to dominate the area were the *Toltecs*. They rose to power around 900 and ruled over central Mexico for about 300 years. The Toltecs were warlike and based their empire on *conquest*. They worshiped a warlike god.

One Toltec king, *Topiltzin*, tried to replace the warlike god with a peaceful one. The peaceful god was called **Quetzalcoatl**, the Feathered *Serpent*. Followers of the warlike god rebelled and chased Topiltzin away. The Toltecs became warlike again. Over time, Topiltzin and Quetzalcoatl became one in Toltec legends. In these legends, someday Quetzalcoatl would return and bring a new *reign* of peace. This legend lived on in central Mexico for centuries and had important consequences.

1. What was Teotihuacán?

The Aztec Empire; Tenochtitlán: A Planned City (pages 453–455)

How did the Aztecs build an empire?

Around 1200, the Toltecs were losing control of the region. But another people—the Aztecs—began to gain power. The Aztecs founded a city and, in 1428, they joined with two other city-states to form the **Triple Alliance**. The Triple Alliance became the leading power of the Valley of Mexico. It soon gained control over neighboring regions.

By the early 1500s, the Aztecs controlled a large empire that included somewhere between 5 and 15 million people. This empire was based on military conquest and collecting *tribute* from conquered peoples.

Military leaders held great power in Aztec society. Along with government officials and priests, they made up a noble class. Below them were commoners—merchants, craft workers, soldiers, and farmers who owned their land. At the bottom of society were the slaves taken as captives in battle. At the top was the emperor. He was treated as a god as well as a ruler.

The capital city—Tenochtitlán—was built on an island in a lake. The Aztecs made long *causeways* to connect the city to the mainland. The city contained between 200,000 and 400,000 people. It was well-planned and had a huge religious complex at its center.

2. How was Aztec society organized?

Religion Rules Aztec Life (page 456)

What was the role of religion in Aztec life?

Religion played a major role in Aztec society. Temples were built in cities for the many different gods. Priests led religious rituals. The most important rituals were for the sun god. Priests made the sacrifice of human blood to make sure that the sun god was happy, and the sun would rise every day. People taken captive in war were sacrificed. The need for a steady supply of victims pushed the Aztecs to fight their neighbors.

3. Why and how did the Aztecs sacrifice to the sun god?

Problems in the Aztec Empire

(pages 456, 458)

What weakened the Aztec Empire?

Montezuma II became emperor in 1502. The Aztec Empire began to have problems during his reign. The Aztecs ordered the other peoples they had conquered to hand over even more people to sacrifice. These other peoples finally rebelled against the Aztecs. In the midst of this conflict, the Spanish arrived and made contact with the Aztecs for the first time. Some saw their arrival as the legendary return of Quetzalcoatl.

4. Why did conquered peoples rebel against the Aztecs?

CHAPTER 16 Section 4 (pages 459–465)

TERMS AND NAMES

Pachacuti Ruler under whom the Incan Empire grew quickly

ayllu Small community or clan whose members worked together for the common good

mita Requirement for all Incan subjects to work for the state a certain number of days each year

quipu Arrangement of knotted strings on a cord used by the Inca to record numerical information

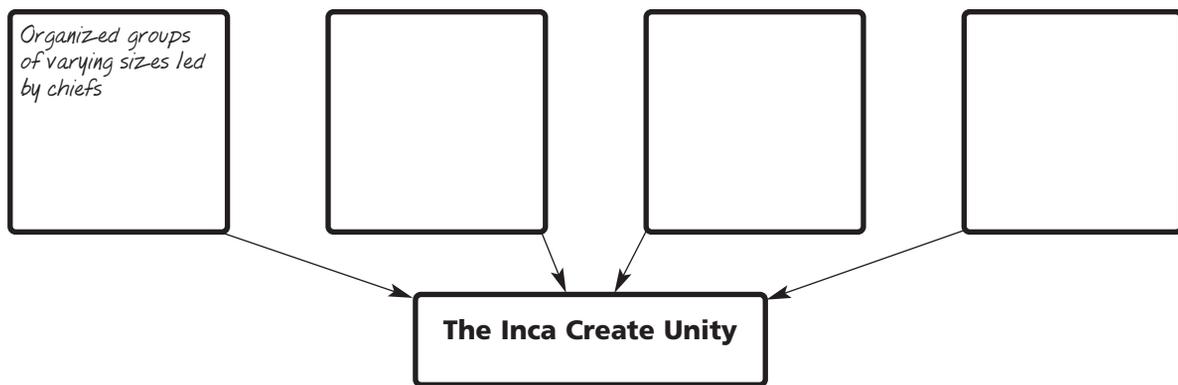
The Inca Create a Mountain Empire

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the Aztec Empire.
In this section, you will learn about the empire of the Inca.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to show how the Inca created their empire.



The Inca Build an Empire (pages 459–460)

Who were the Inca?

The Inca civilization arose in the Andes of South America. It was built on the foundations made by several earlier cultures.

The Inca united much of the Andes under their rule. They first settled in the Valley of Cuzco, in modern Peru. They built a kingdom there by the 1200s. The Inca believed that their ruler was related to the sun god, who would bring wealth and power to them. Only men from one of 11 noble families believed to be descendants of the sun god could serve as king.

In 1438, **Pachacuti** became the ruler of the Inca. He made conquest after conquest. By 1500,

the Inca ruled an empire that stretched along the Andes from modern Ecuador all the way south to Chile and Argentina. It held about 16 million people. The empire did not grow only through military conquest. Often the Inca offered new peoples the chance to join the empire peacefully as long as they swore loyalty to the emperor. Many peoples became part of the empire in this way. Even when force was needed, afterward the Inca tried to win the loyalty of the conquered peoples through friendship rather than fear.

1. What beliefs and practices related to Inca rulers?

Incan Government Creates Unity (pages 460–461)

How did the government unite the empire?

The Inca had a highly organized system to govern their empire. Small groups of people known as **ayllu** worked together for the common good. For example, they built irrigation ditches together. The Inca applied this idea to their empire. Families were placed in groups of 10, 100, 1,000, and so on. A chief led each group.

The Inca usually let local rulers stay in place when they conquered a people—as long as the conquered people met any Incan demands. The most important demand was for all adult workers to spend some days each year working for the state. They might work on state farms or build state roads or buildings. This payment of labor was known as **mita**.

The Inca built a complex network of roads. The roads linked all parts of the empire. The Inca also built all government buildings in the same style. This created a common identity for the government throughout the empire. They made all people speak a common language—the Incan tongue, called *Quechua*.

The Inca controlled the economy. They told people what to grow or make and how it would be distributed. The government also took care of people who needed help, such as the very old or ill.

In spite of all these advances, the Inca never developed a system of writing. All records were kept in peoples' memories. They did have a device for counting. It was a set of knotted strings called a **quipu**. The Inca also had day and night calendars for information about their gods.

2. What was mita, and what forms did it take?

Religion Supports the State; Discord in the Empire (pages 462–463)

How were religion and government connected?

The Incan religion played a central role in Inca life. The Inca believed in fewer gods than the peoples of Mexico. The most important of the Incan gods were the creator god and the sun god. Cuzco, the capital, was the most important religious center. It was decorated with gold and other precious objects.

In the early 1500s, the Incan Empire reached the height of its power under the rule of Huayna Capac. However, he died while traveling through the empire. After Huayna Capac's death, civil war broke out between his two sons, Atahualpa and Huascar. Atahualpa eventually won, but the war tore the empire apart. When the Spanish arrived, they took advantage of Incan weakness to divide and conquer the empire.

3. Why did the Incan Empire fall?
