



CHAPTER 2 The First Americans (Prehistory–1600)
STUDY GUIDE (pages 30–59)

★ REVIEWING KEY PEOPLE

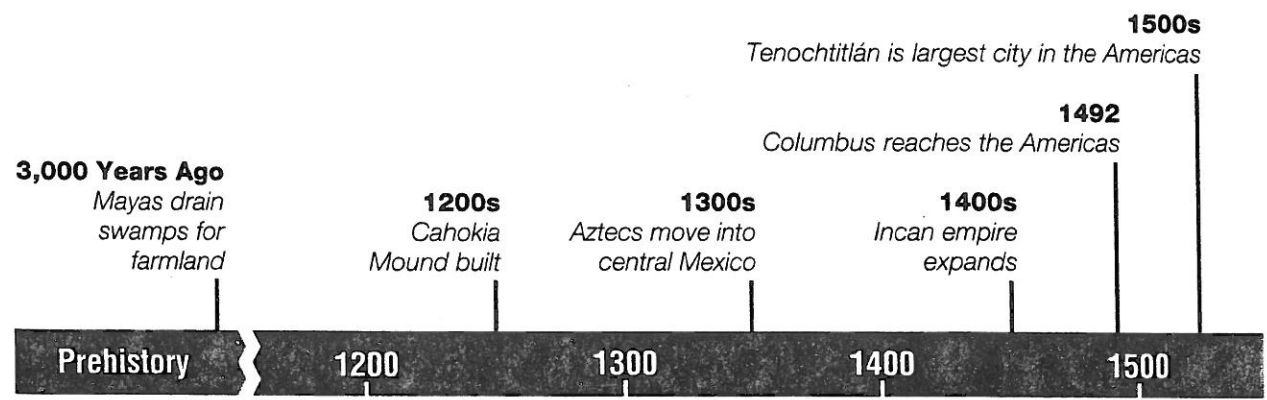
From the box below, choose the people that best complete each description that follows. Write the answer in the space provided.

Natchez	Aztecs	Iroquois	Mayas
Navajos	Anasazis	Incas	Inuits

- lived in Southwest deserts; built large houses of stone and adobe _____
- lived in the Arctic; built igloos _____
- lived in the Southeast; were divided into ever-changing social classes _____
- lived in the Eastern Woodlands; made up of five nations _____
- built cities in Central America and Mexico; developed a writing system and advanced number system _____
- built an empire in central Mexico; their capital was the largest city in the Americas in the 1500s _____
- built an empire along the western coast of South America; had a powerful, well-organized government _____

★ UNDERSTANDING CHRONOLOGY

Use the time line below to answer the questions that follow.



- How many years does each division on the time line cover after 1200? _____
- When did Columbus reach the Americas? _____
- Which event shows that Mound Builders lived in North America before Columbus arrived?

4. According to the time line, which other Native American groups lived in the Americas before Columbus arrived? _____

5. Which events help to show that the Aztecs built a powerful empire over a period of about 200 years? _____

★ UNDERSTANDING THE MAIN IDEAS

Answer the questions in the space provided.

1. How did the first people come to the Americas? _____

2. (a) Name the 10 major Native American culture areas of North America north of Mexico.
(b) Identify one group that lived in each area. _____

3. How did the Inuits make use of the resources of the Arctic? _____

4. What was the purpose of the League of the Iroquois? _____

5. How did the Aztecs adapt to the conditions in Tenochtitlán? _____

6. List three achievements of the Incas. _____

7. What effects did the 1492 encounter with Europeans have on Native Americans? _____

★ CRITICAL THINKING

On a separate sheet of paper, briefly answer the following question.

Evaluating Which Native American group of North America do you think had the most favorable climate and resources? Explain.