

SECTION 3

The Haida people believe a raven released the first people from a clam shell.



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Birth of Diverse Cultures

“For a long time everyone spoke the same language, but suddenly people began to speak in different tongues. Kulsu [the Creator], however, could speak all of the languages, so he called his people together and told them the names of the animals in their own language, taught them to get food, and gave them their laws and rituals. Then he sent each tribe to a different place to live . . .”

—Creation myth of the Maidu people of California

Focus Question What factors contributed to the growth of diverse cultures in North America?

Peoples of North America

Objectives

- Understand how groups of people adapted to the desert environment of the Southwest.
- Analyze the evidence from which we have learned about the emergence of culture in eastern North America.
- Examine the cultures that developed in three very different geographic regions.

Terms, People, and Places

Mesa Verde	earthwork
pueblo	Cahokia
Pueblo Bonito	potlatch
kiva	Iroquois League

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Compare and Contrast As you read, outline the experiences and achievements of Native American groups in each culture area discussed. Then compare and contrast the details you have recorded for the various culture areas.

- | |
|--------------------|
| I. Southwest |
| A. Environment |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| B. Settlement type |
| 1. |
| 2. |

Hundreds of Native American cultural groups lived in North America before A.D. 1500 and the arrival of Europeans. Based on the environments in which people lived, scholars have categorized them into ten culture areas: Arctic, Subarctic, Northwest Coast, California, Great Basin, Plateau, Southwest, Plains, Southeast, and Northeast. In each area, people adapted to geographic conditions that influenced their ways of life.

Peoples Adapt to the Desert Southwest

For millennia, Native American groups lived by hunting, fishing, and gathering wild plants. After farming spread north from Mesoamerica, many people raised corn and other food crops. Some people farmed so successfully that they built large permanent settlements. Some of the earliest farming cultures arose in what is today the southwestern United States.

The Hohokam Farm in the Desert Perhaps as long ago as 300 B.C., fields of corn, beans, and squash bloomed in the desert of present-day Arizona, near the Salt and Gila rivers. These fields were planted by a people later called the Hohokam, or “Vanished Ones,” by their descendants, the Pima and the Papago. To farm in the desert, the Hohokam built a complex irrigation system that included numerous canals. The canals carried river water to fields as far as several miles away. The Hohokam also built temple mounds and ball courts similar in appearance to those of Mesoamerica. Evidence indicates that, for unknown reasons, the Hohokam left their settlements sometime during the A.D. 1400s.



Native American Culture Areas

Geography Interactive

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Great Serpent Mound



Iroquois baggataway stick (early lacrosse stick)

Northwest Coast sun mask

Arctic Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Equal-Area Projection
0 500 1000 mi
0 500 1000 km

- Plains** Culture areas
- Key archaeological sites
- Sources of subsistence, A.D. 1500**
- Cultivated plants
 - Wild plants
 - Fish and shellfish
 - Game
 - Sea mammals

Native American Culture Groups: Historical Locations

Culture Area	Culture Groups
Arctic	Aleut, Inuit
Subarctic	Beaver, Chipewyan, Cree, Ingalik, Kutchin, Montagnais, Naskapi, Ojibwa, Tanaina
Northwest Coast	Bella Coola, Chinook, Haida, Kwakiutl, Nootka, Tlingit
California	Chumash, Maidu, Miwok, Pomo, Shastan
Great Basin	Paiute, Shoshone, Ute
Plateau	Nez Percé, Spokane, Shuswap
Southwest	Ancestral Puebloan, Apache, Hohokam, Mojave, Navajo, Papago, Pima, Pueblos (Acoma, Hopi, Laguna, Zuni)
Plains	Arapaho, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Comanche, Cree, Crow, Hidatsa, Kiowa, Mandan, Omaha, Pawnee, Sioux, Wichita
Southeast	Calusa, Catawba, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Mississippians, Natchez, Seminole
Northeast	Adena, Algonquin (Delaware, Miami, Mohegan, Ojibwa, Pequot, Potawatomi, Shawnee), Hopewell, Iroquois (Cayuga, Erie, Huron, Mohawk, Onandaga, Oneida, Seneca, Tuscarora), Micmac, Winnebago

Map Skills As Native Americans spread out to populate North America, they developed a wide variety of cultures. In each culture area on the map, peoples shared fairly similar environments and ways of life.

- Locate** (a) Plateau culture area (b) Southeast culture area (c) Great Serpent Mound
- Place** In which two culture areas could Native Americans hunt sea mammals?
- Draw Inferences** Some Native American groups lived in different culture areas at different times. How might sources of subsistence have influenced them to migrate?

Ancestral Puebloans Build Cliff Dwellings and Pueblos About A.D. 100, Ancestral Puebloans lived in what is today the Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah. Within a few hundred years, they were building villages, some inside caves and some outside.

Between A.D. 1150 and A.D. 1300, the Ancestral Puebloans (also known as Anasazi) built their famous cliff residences. Using hand-cut stone blocks, they constructed housing complexes on cliffs along canyon walls. Such cliffs offered protection from raiders. The largest of these cliff dwellings, at **Mesa Verde** (MAY suh VEHR dee) in present-day Colorado, included more than 200 rooms. People climbed ladders to reach their fields on the flatlands above or the canyon floor below.

The Ancestral Puebloans also built freestanding villages, which were similar in structure to the cliff dwellings. These communities, which the Spanish later called **pueblos** (PWEB loh), were made of multi-floor houses that were connected to one another by doorways and ladders.

Remains of **Pueblo Bonito**, the largest such pueblo, still stand in New Mexico. The huge complex consisted of 800 rooms that could have housed about 3,000 people. Builders used stone and adobe bricks to erect a crescent-shaped compound rising five stories high. In the center of the great complex lay a plaza. There, the Ancestral Puebloans dug their **kiva** (KEE vuh), a large underground chamber used for religious ceremonies and political meetings. In the kiva, they carved out a small hole in the floor, which represented the birthplace of the tribe. They also painted the walls with geometric designs and scenes of ritual or daily life.

In the late 1200s, a long drought forced the Ancestral Puebloans to abandon their dwellings. Attacks by Navajos and Apaches—peoples from the north—may have contributed further to their decline. However, Ancestral Puebloan traditions survived among several groups of descendants. Known collectively as Pueblo Indians, many of these groups continue to live in the southwestern United States today.

 **Checkpoint** What types of technological advances did early peoples of the Southwest make?

Cultures Develop in the East

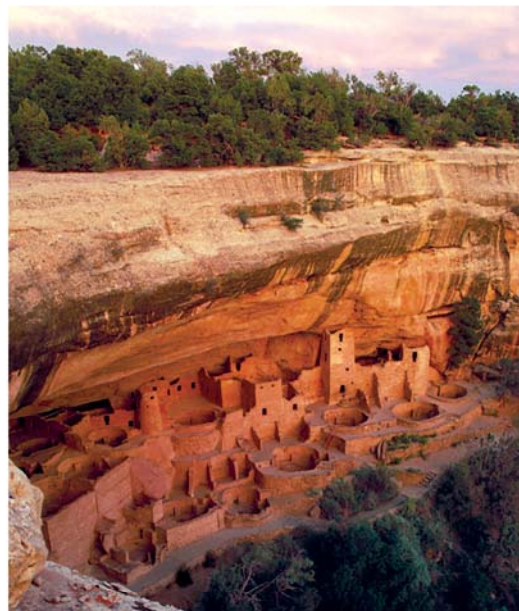
Far to the east of the Ancestral Puebloans, in the Mississippi and Ohio river valleys, other farming cultures emerged after about 1000 B.C. They, too, left behind impressive constructions from which we can learn a great deal about their lives.

The Adena and Hopewell Build With Earth Both the Adena and the later Hopewell people of the Northeast are known for giant **earthworks** that they built for various purposes by heaping earth in piles and shaping them. Some of the earthworks were large burial mounds, others served as platforms for structures such as temples, and still others served as defensive walls. Mounds were usually cone-shaped, oval, or formed into the shape of an animal. The Adena's Great Serpent Mound in Ohio wriggles and twists in the shape of a snake for almost a quarter of a mile.

Some of the objects found in the Hopewell mounds show that traders extended their influence over a wide area. They acquired goods such as conch shells from the Gulf of Mexico, grizzly bear teeth and obsidian from the Rocky Mountains, and copper from the Great Lakes region. Skilled artisans then hammered and shaped the copper into fine ornaments.

Vocabulary Builder

complex—(KAHM pleks) *n.* a whole composed of various interrelated parts



Cliff Palace, the largest dwelling at Mesa Verde, may have housed 250 people.

The Mississippians Build Bigger By A.D. 800, these early eastern cultures had disappeared. A new people, whom today we refer to as the Mississippians, gained influence in the Southeast region. As their culture spread, the Mississippians built clusters of earthen mounds and ever larger towns and ceremonial centers.

The greatest Mississippian center, **Cahokia** in present-day Illinois, housed as many as 20,000 people by about A.D. 1100. Cahokia boasted 120 mounds, atop some of which sat the homes of rulers and nobles. The largest mound probably had a temple on its summit, where priests and rulers offered prayers and sacrifices to the sun.

The Natchez Carry on the Traditions The Mississippians left no written records, and their cities disappeared after Europeans reached the area. Their traditions, however, survived among the Natchez people, who are known for their worship of the sun. They called their ruler, who held absolute power, the Great Sun. He and his family lived on the top of pyramid mounds. Society was divided into castes, the highest group was called the suns.

✔ **Checkpoint** What aspects of cultural life do the earthworks built by the Adena and Hopewell people reveal?

Unique Cultures Develop in Different Geographic Regions

Distinct ways of life developed in each Native American culture area. Here, we examine three culture areas—the Arctic, the Northwest Coast, and the Eastern Woodlands—in which varied climates and natural environments helped unique cultures develop.

The Inuit Live in a Frozen World In the far northern stretches of Canada, the Inuit (IN oo it; often called the Eskimo) adapted to the harsh climate of the Arctic. By about 2000 B.C., they had settled there, using the resources of the frozen land to survive. Small bands lived by hunting and fishing. Seals and other sea mammals provided them with food, skins for clothing, bones for needles and tools, and oil for cooking. The Inuit paddled kayaks in open waters or used dog sleds to transport goods across the ice. In some areas, the Inuit constructed igloos, or dome-shaped homes made from snow and ice. In others, they built sod dwellings that were partly underground.

Adapting to the Arctic

The Inuit built kayaks with wood or whale bone, over which they stretched oiled animal skins to keep out water. As they paddled through icy waters on the hunt for seals (below right), they wielded harpoons and other weapons and wore snow goggles (below left) to protect their eyes from the glare. *How did the Inuit overcome the challenges of living in the harsh Arctic climate?*



Thriving in a Land of Plenty The peoples of the Northwest Coast lived in an environment far richer in natural resources than the Inuit did. Rivers teemed with salmon, and the Pacific Ocean offered a supply of other fish and sea mammals. Hunters tracked deer, wolves, and bears in the forests. In this land of plenty, people built large permanent villages with homes made of wood. They traded their surplus goods, gaining wealth that was then shared in a ceremony called **potlatch**. At this ceremony, which is still practiced in Canada and the Northwest coast of the United States today, a person of high rank and wealth distributes lavish gifts to a large number of guests. By accepting the gifts, the guests acknowledge the host's high status.

The Iroquois Join Together On the other side of the continent, the Northeast was home to numerous Native American groups. Many of these spoke the Iroquois (IHR uh kwoy) language, shared similar traditions, and were known collectively as the Iroquois. Typically, the Iroquois cleared land and built villages in the forests. While women farmed, men hunted and frequently fought wars against rival groups.

According to Iroquois tradition, the prophet Dekanawidah (deh kan ah WEE dah) urged these rivals to stop their constant wars. In the late 1500s, he became one of the founders of the unique political system known as the **Iroquois League**. This was an alliance of five Iroquois groups—the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca—who were known as the Five Nations. The Iroquois League did not always succeed in keeping the peace. Still, it was the best-organized political group north of Mexico. Member nations governed their own villages but met jointly in a council when they needed to address larger issues. Only men sat on the council, but each clan had a “clan mother” who could name or remove members of the council.

The Iroquois League emerged at the same time that Europeans arrived in the Americas. Just as encounters with Europeans would topple the Aztec and Incan empires, so too would they take a fearful toll on the peoples of North America.

 **Checkpoint** How did geography influence the Inuit way of life?

SECTION 3 Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Compare and Contrast** Use your completed outline to answer the Focus Question: What factors contributed to the growth of diverse cultures in North America?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Draw Conclusions** What challenges do you think the Ancestral Puebloans faced when constructing cliff dwellings? Consider location and natural resources.
4. **Categorize** Many of the earthen mounds built in the Southeast are similar in construction. What types of evidence do you think archaeologists looked for to establish the different purposes of these mounds?
5. **Analyze Information** What role do you think language played in enabling the political structure of the Iroquois?

In about 1570, Dekanawidah persuaded warring Iroquois nations to form a confederacy, or an alliance for a common purpose. What benefits do you think a confederacy offered?

Primary Source

“I, Dekanawidah, and the confederate lords now uproot the tallest pine tree and into the cavity [hole] thereby made we cast all weapons of war. Into the depths of the earth . . . we cast all weapons of strife [conflict]. We bury them from sight forever and plant again the tree. Thus shall all Great Peace be established and hostilities shall no longer be known between the Five Nations but only peace to a united people.”
—The Constitution of the Five Nations

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Writing About History

Quick Write: Write the Climax A narrative essay should include a climax—that is, the high point of the story that a reader will find most gripping. Suppose you want to write a narrative from the perspective of a member of one of the Native American groups you have read about in this section. Write a climax to the story you would tell of this person's life.