



What Is Heritage Studies?

The BJU Press Heritage Studies materials are a presentation of social studies that integrates civics, culture, economics, geography, and history. *HERITAGE STUDIES 5* includes an age-appropriate study of civics and government and evaluates events in United States history from the pre-Columbus era to 2015, all from a Christian worldview. This study highlights the role of significant Christians in American history and their viewpoints on historical events. Eye-catching artwork, maps, graphs, photos, review questions, and timelines enhance learning.

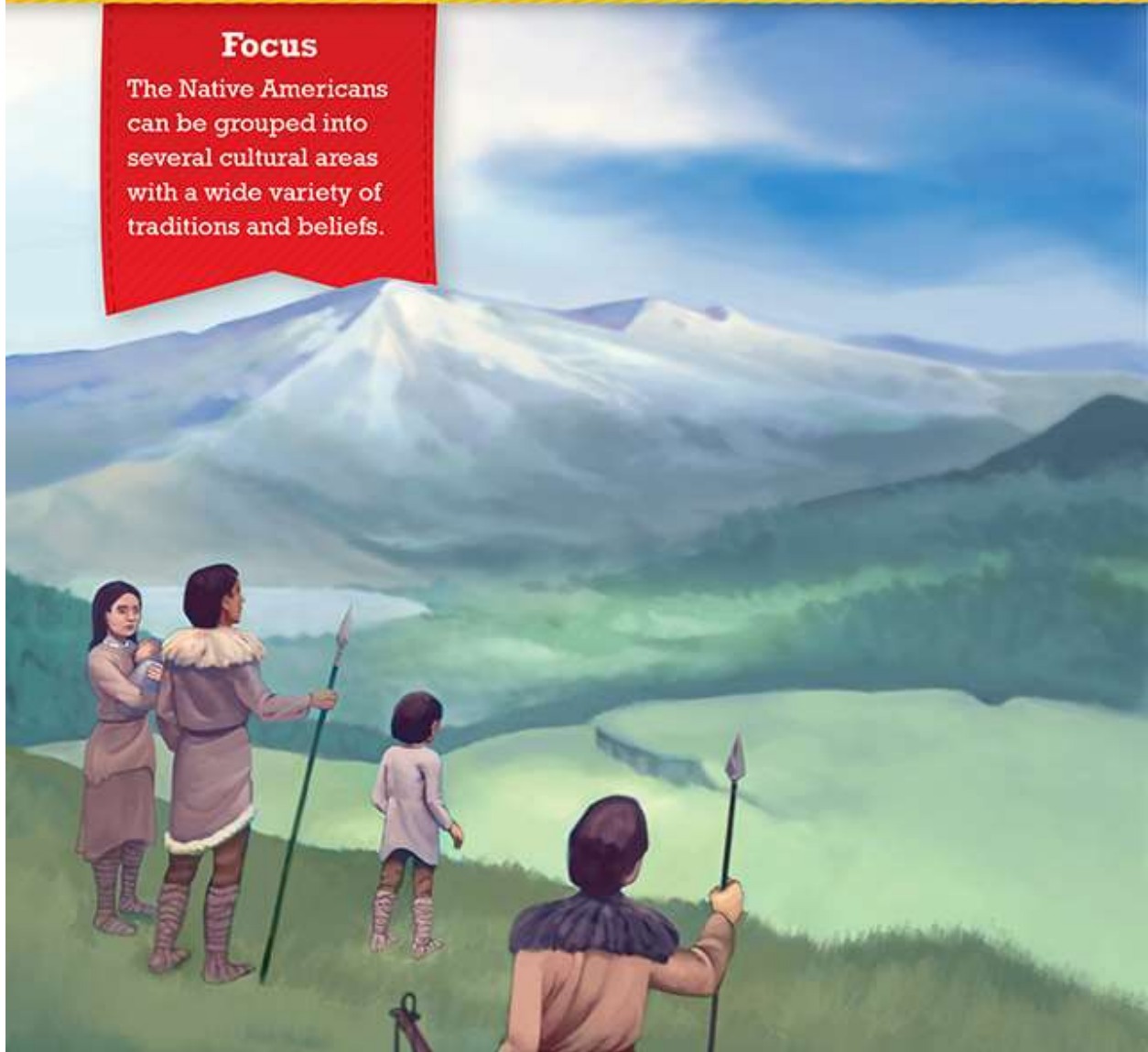


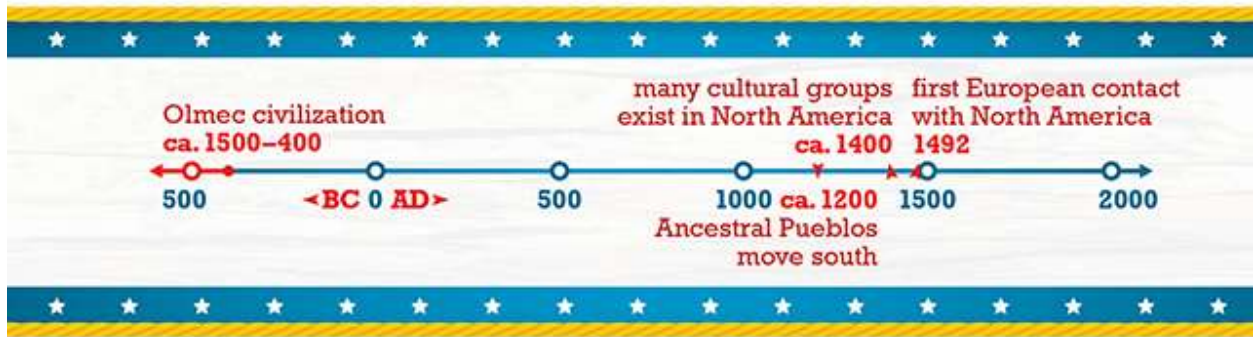
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America's First People

Focus

The Native Americans can be grouped into several cultural areas with a wide variety of traditions and beliefs.





The Story of America Begins

The history of America is a fascinating story. It is a story of courage, loyalty, love, and faith. It is also a story of sin and suffering. It is a story about people. And as is true of all history, it is a story about God. God is the one who causes governments and nations to rise and fall. He works all things together to bring about His plans. God often accomplishes His work through people—not always great people, but ordinary people too.

The story of America begins with its earliest people. The ancestors of these early people were part of the civilization that tried to build the tower of Babel. God scattered the builders by confusing their languages. Each language group moved away from the others. Slowly the groups spread out to fill the earth as God had planned. Some descendants of these people found their way to America.

These earliest Americans did not call their land America. It did not look like the America we know today. It did

not have cities and towns bustling with activity. It did not have road systems or railroads. The land that the earliest Americans found was filled with mountains and rivers and wide, open spaces. It had forests and treeless plains where wild animals roamed freely. The first people developed their own way of life in this new and untamed land. Today we refer to these earliest people as Native Americans or Indians.

The Earliest Americans How Did They Come?

Historians have various ways to explain how the first people came to America from the continent of Asia. One popular view is that people crossed the Bering Strait between Russia and Alaska. Christians can agree with this view based on the Bible's account of the Flood.

The Flood produced many changes in the earth and its climate. These changes caused ice to form in various parts of the world. The ice sheets took



many years to melt. Because so much water had frozen, the water level in the Bering Sea may have been low after the Flood. People might have been able to cross the Bering Strait on dry land. Historians who hold this view call the dry land the Bering Land Bridge or Beringia.



Clovis point

such things as beliefs, customs, and creative arts.

Some of the early people in North America lived in what is now the United States. Archaeologists have found sharp stone points from spears and knives all across the continent. Archaeologists call these findings Clovis points. The first ones were

found near the city of Clovis, New Mexico. These Clovis points suggest that early Americans hunted animals for food. Some people may have lived as nomads, going wherever they could find good hunting and moving often.

Huge mounds of dirt have been found in the eastern and midwestern United States. Archaeologists believe the Mound Builders had a religion connected with their mounds. They

How Did They Live?

We know where some of the earliest people settled because their artifacts have been found. **Artifacts** are man-made objects left behind by people of the past. **Archaeologists** are people who look for artifacts. They study what they find to learn about the way ancient people lived. We refer to a people's way of life as its **culture**. A culture includes

may have been used as burial places or religious centers.

Some other early people settled farther south. The Olmecs left many artifacts in Mexico along the Gulf Coast. They built cities with drainage systems. They carved huge stone heads with lifelike faces. These findings show that the Olmecs were intelligent and skilled.

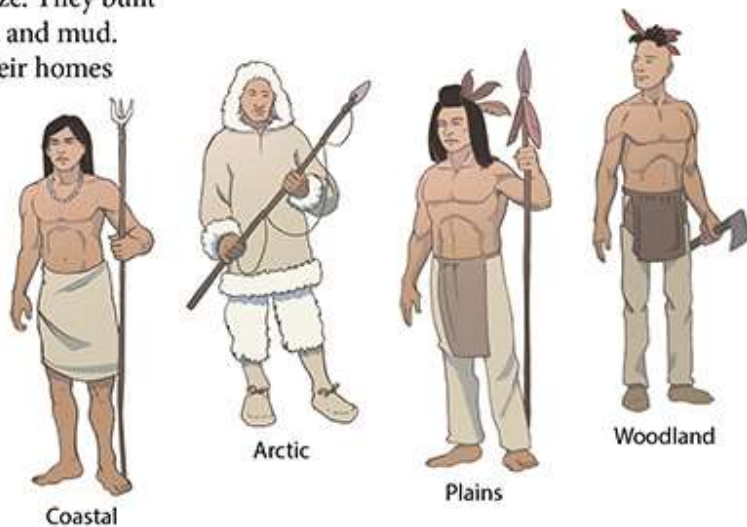
The Mayas in Central America also left city ruins behind. Some of these cities have magnificent pyramids and palaces. The Mayas also left written records. These early Americans were advanced in art, literature, math, and science.

One ancient group lasted until more recent times. The Ancestral Pueblo people lived in the southwestern United States. They are also known as the Anasazi. The Ancestral Pueblos thrived until about AD 1400. They grew corn, which they called maize. They built homes of stone blocks and mud. Some of them built their homes in cliffs. They left behind beautiful pottery and baskets.

Artifacts help us learn about some of the earliest cultures in America. There is still much that we do not know about the early ways of life. But we know that in

God's perfect plan, these people began the story of America. They were the first to fill this land and to rule over it. We also know that the people who developed these cultures were made in God's image. God gave all people the command to rule over the earth. This command is called the **Creation Mandate**. When people work together to rule over their earth, they create cultures. It is not surprising that these early Americans had great ability and creative skills. They, like all people, are gifted by God to develop cultures.

By the 1400s, the Native Americans had grown into hundreds of groups, or tribes. Often tribes in the same region had similar cultures. In this chapter we will study several of these cultural groups. We will see how each of the groups used the resources and skills God gave them in unique ways.



Native American Cultures



Name some artifacts that have helped us learn about early cultures in America.

People of the Southwest

Much of the southwestern United States is desert. This region has rugged mountains, mesas, and canyons. Little rain falls there. Because of the dry weather, the Southwest does not have as many trees, plants, or animals as other regions. It was not an easy place for Native Americans to live.

The southwestern Indians learned to make the most of the resources they had. They developed their skills as farmers. Even in the sandy soil, they were able to grow enough crops to feed whole villages. They used resources in nature to make shelters and useful works of art. The Pueblos and the Navajos are two of the best-known groups of southwestern Indians.

The Pueblos

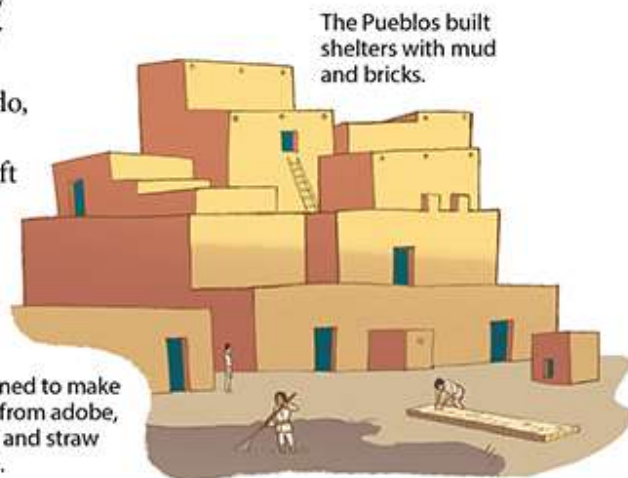
Sometime between AD 1200 and 1300, the Ancestral Pueblos left their homes. They had lived mainly in the area that is today called Four Corners. Four Corners is located where the borders of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet. The Ancestral Pueblos may have left because of famine. They may have had to flee because of danger from enemies. The only thing we know for certain is that they moved south and never returned to Four Corners.

The Pueblos learned to make their own bricks from adobe, a mixture of clay and straw baked in the sun.

The descendants of these Ancestral Pueblos lived in New Mexico and Arizona. We call them the Pueblo people. Some of them still live on reservations there. Several different tribes make up the Pueblos. The Hopis and the Zunis are examples of Pueblo tribes.

The Pueblos kept many of the traditions of their ancestors. They continued to grow their own food. They grew corn, beans, and squash in the dry southwestern desert.

The shelters the Pueblos made were also called **pueblos**. These shelters had many units like apartment buildings do. Each pueblo housed several families. The families in a pueblo were often closely related. Sometimes the people at one pueblo spoke a different language from the people at another. Each pueblo also had a kiva. **Kivas** were special rooms set aside for religious activities.



The Pueblos built shelters with mud and bricks.

The Pueblos believed that pleasing the kachinas would bring favorable weather, good health, and happiness.



The Pueblo people made baskets, wove fabric, and shaped pottery from clay. They also made dolls to represent kachinas. **Kachinas** were spirits that the Pueblos believed in. The Pueblo people believed that kachinas controlled objects in nature.

The Navajos

Another large tribe in the Southwest was the Navajo people. The Navajos all spoke a form of the same language. When they first came to the region, they hunted animals and gathered plants for food. Later they learned to farm. The Navajos built hogans as shelters. **Hogans** were made of logs and poles covered with mud.

Sometimes there was fighting between the Navajos and the Pueblos. At other times, they helped each other and traded with one

another. Some historians believe that the Pueblos taught the Navajos farming and weaving.

The Navajos were known for a special art called sand painting. They gathered materials from the desert to make the colors. Crushed stone could make brown, red, or gold. Pollen or cornmeal could make yellow. By sprinkling the colors over an area of sand, the Navajos could create pictures. Sand paintings were used in religious ceremonies. The Navajos believed these paintings would help heal sick people. We cannot find sand paintings today because the Navajos did not leave them in place after finishing the healing ceremonies.

Many Navajos today live on land in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. They still keep many of their traditions. The Navajo Nation is the largest reservation in the United States today.



Most hogans were round at the bottom and narrow at the top. An opening in the roof let out the smoke from the cooking fire.