

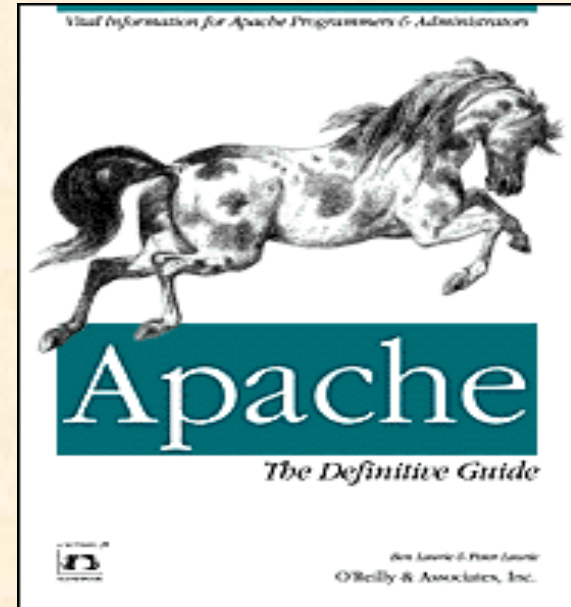
The World Before the Opening of the Atlantic Atlantic (Prehistory- 1600)



1. The First Civilizations of the Americas

According to Apache legend, we know that the first humans to enter North and South America slowly spread, across the land. We know this because early peoples left behind a trail of evidence, such as burial mounds, stone cities, and pottery

By studying the physical remains, scientists are piecing together the story of the first Americans. The science of studying the physical remains of the past is called archaeology.



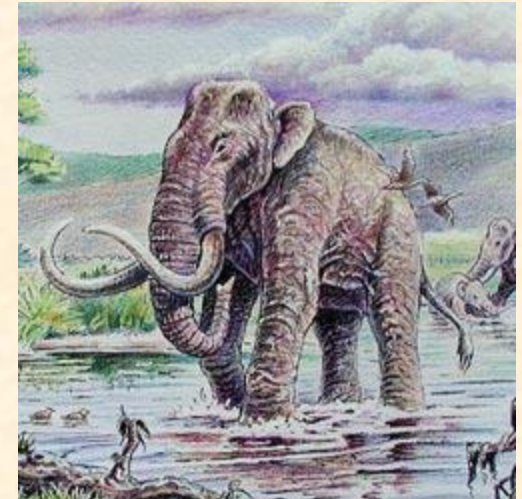
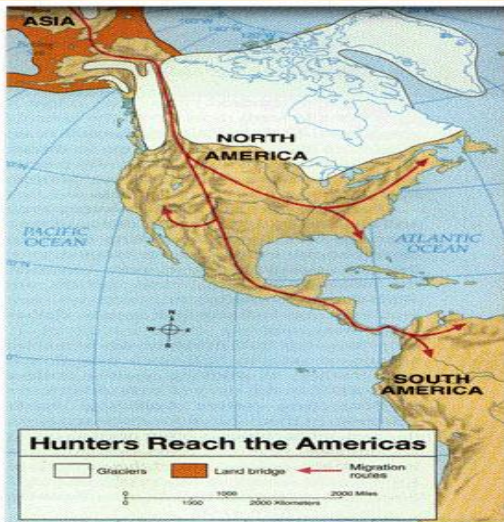
The first American left no written records to tell us where they came from. Scientists have found evidence that suggests the first people reached the America's sometime during the late Ice Age.



The Land Bridge

12,000 years ago, thick sheets of ice, called glaciers, covered much of the Earth. The glaciers locked up water from the oceans and as a result, land appeared that was covered by water.

Scientists think that the first Americans were probably hunters. Traveling in small groups, they followed herds of woolly mammoths and bison. Some groups may have caught fish and sea mammals along the southern coasts.



Global Warming

About 12,000 years ago temperatures rose around the globe. The glaciers melted and water covered the United States. People adapted to their new conditions. The woolly mammoth and many other animals died out.

The people living in the Americas changed their new environment to meet their own needs. About 5000 years ago some people learned to grow crops such as corn, beans, and squash. Farming changed those people's lives. People who farmed no longer had the hunt for food. They built the first permanent villages in the Americas to farm on. As more food was produced the populations of people in the America's increased.





Scientists have found large stone heads carved by the Olmecs. This one is nearly nine feet tall.

The earliest known civilization in the Americas were the Olmecs. They were farmers that lived near the Gulf of Mexico. They grew a surplus, or extra food to support their large populations. Soon afterwards the first cities emerged.

The Study of Early Peoples

Today, many experts are trying to develop a clear picture of the first American people. Other experts are analyzing the languages of Native Americans living today. Native Americans are the descendants (or children) of the first people to reach the America thousands of years ago.



By studying artifacts, archaeologists can learn much about early people. If they found an arrowhead that would suggest that people knew how to make weapons and hunt. Each object they found can provide valuable information about early cultures. Culture is the entire way of life that people has developed. It includes the behavior, customs, ideas, beliefs, and skills that people teach every new generation. From artifacts and other evidence, archaeologists form theories about the culture of an ancient people.



The Mayas

Large canoes traveled along the Caribbean coasts of Mexico. These canoes belonged to the Mayas whose great cities disappeared more than 1500 years ago. Mayan people were traders. They traded jade, jewelry, cocoa beans and other goods. The Mayan's were one of the several Native American people who built great civilizations in the America's. A civilization is an advanced culture. It usually includes cities and a well organized government.



A
Mayan
temple.
And
city.



Mayan culture came about 3,000 years ago. These people came from the Mexican rain forests. Today this land is called Southern Mexico. Rainforests were a dangerous place to live. In the rainforests there was poisonous snakes, jaguars and deadly insects. These people learned to build houses out of stone. They cleared the swamps to plant crops.

Most Mayans lived in simple homes with mud walls and thatch roofs. Wealthy people lived in stone houses or palaces.

Mayan cities rose in many parts of Mexico and Central America. Each city ruled and controlled its surrounding area. The Mayan people built roads to connect the cities to the oceans. To record their findings,

Mayan priests invented a system of hieroglyphics, or writing that used pictures to represent words and ideas. About 850 the Mayans left their cities. Historians do not know why they left their cities.



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The Aztecs

To the North of the Mayan people the Aztecs built a powerful empire. Until the 1300's the Aztecs wandered looking for food and shelter. The Aztecs built their capital in a place where their God said "*the eagle perched on a cactus holding a snake,*" according to their God. The Aztecs settled in a place we call today, Central Mexico.

The Aztecs built their capital city and called it Tenochtitlan. They constructed a system of causeways, or raised roads made of packed earth.



On an Island called Texcoco. The Aztecs packed the earth down and connected the island to the land. They placed mats under the lake bottom and filled it with mud. Then they planted great gardens in the mud. Later in the 1400's the Aztecs conquered their neighboring people. The city became very rich and more than 60,000 of people traded there daily.



Religion was important to the Aztec people. Young people went to school to become priests or priestesses. The Sun God was important to them. They sacrificed tens of thousands of prisoners to the Sun God each year.



**Aztec
Serpent
Head**

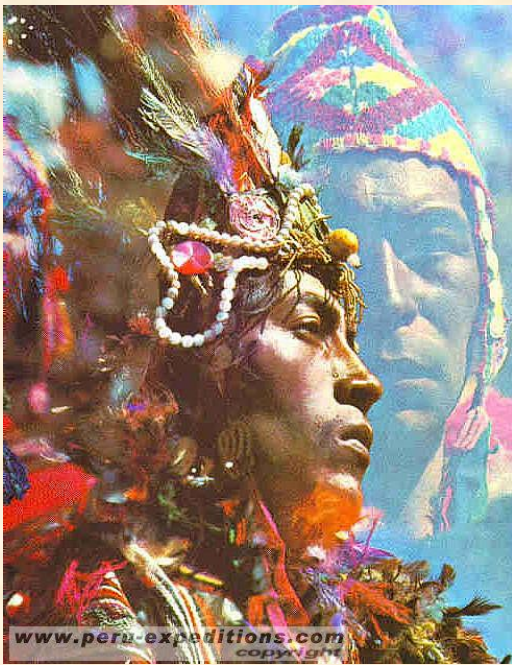
By the 1500's the Aztecs ruled millions of people from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. The emperor has absolute power and was treated like a god. People were heavily taxed and the outrage over human sacrifices made the people later revolt.

The Incas

South to the Aztecs was the Incas. The Incas united the largest empire in the Americas. The Inca's capital was located in the Andes Mountains. By 1492 the Inca Empire stretched more than 3000 miles along the coast of South America. The Incas were excellent farmers like the Aztecs and Maya's.

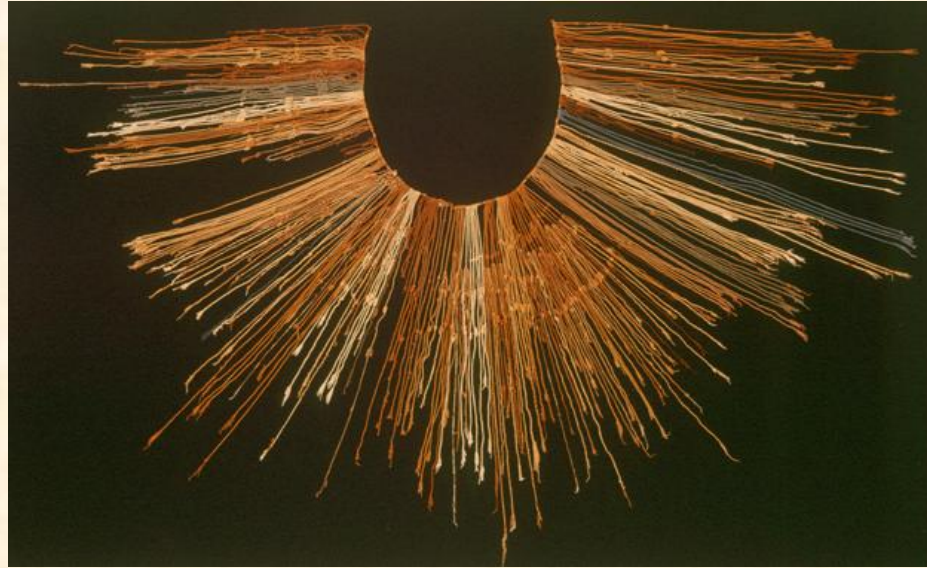
They carved homes out of the mountainsides and grew more than 100 varieties of potatoes. The Incas were great engineers. They moved huge stones that weighed more than 200 tons and created temples and buildings.





The Incas created more than 19,000 miles of roads to connect their Empire. They made some very important advances in medicine. They discovered that quinine could treat malaria. They performed successful brain surgery and found medicines to lessen pain.

They created a [quipu](#), or a string of knots used to record quantities.



Like the Aztecs, the Inca's worshipped the sun. They worshiped the sun and lined their temples with gold. The gold was called "the sweat of the Gods." In the 1500's the Spanish destroyed the Inca's temples. The Spanish took their gold. The Inca's were too weak from disease to fight back.

People of the Southwest

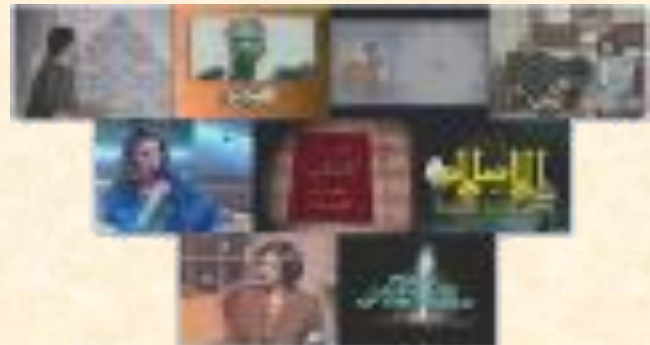
The Anasazi farmed the desert by using irrigation. Their buildings were made from sun dried bricks, called adobe. Their houses were made of sun-dried bricks. They were called pueblos or villages. A giant house would look like an apartment building made a bricks.



The *Anasazi* made a network of roads that connected their villages. Traders carried cotton and sandals made from leaves. In the late 1200's the Anasazi people abandoned their villages. Archaeologists believe that a drought, or a long dry spell hit this region.



People who share a similar way of life are called a culture. People of the same culture felt a strong bond with the land, plants, and animals of that region.





The Mound Builders

About 3000 years ago until the 1700's people built mounds out of the earth. These people were called Mound Builders. They lived in the land we call Mississippi today. The first mounds discovered by archeologists were the burial grounds for their important leaders. Inside the mounds archaeologists found carved pipes and stone sculptures. Sometime between 700 and 1500, the people from Mississippi built a large city in present day Illinois. At this time as many as 30,000 people live there.

2. Native American Cultures

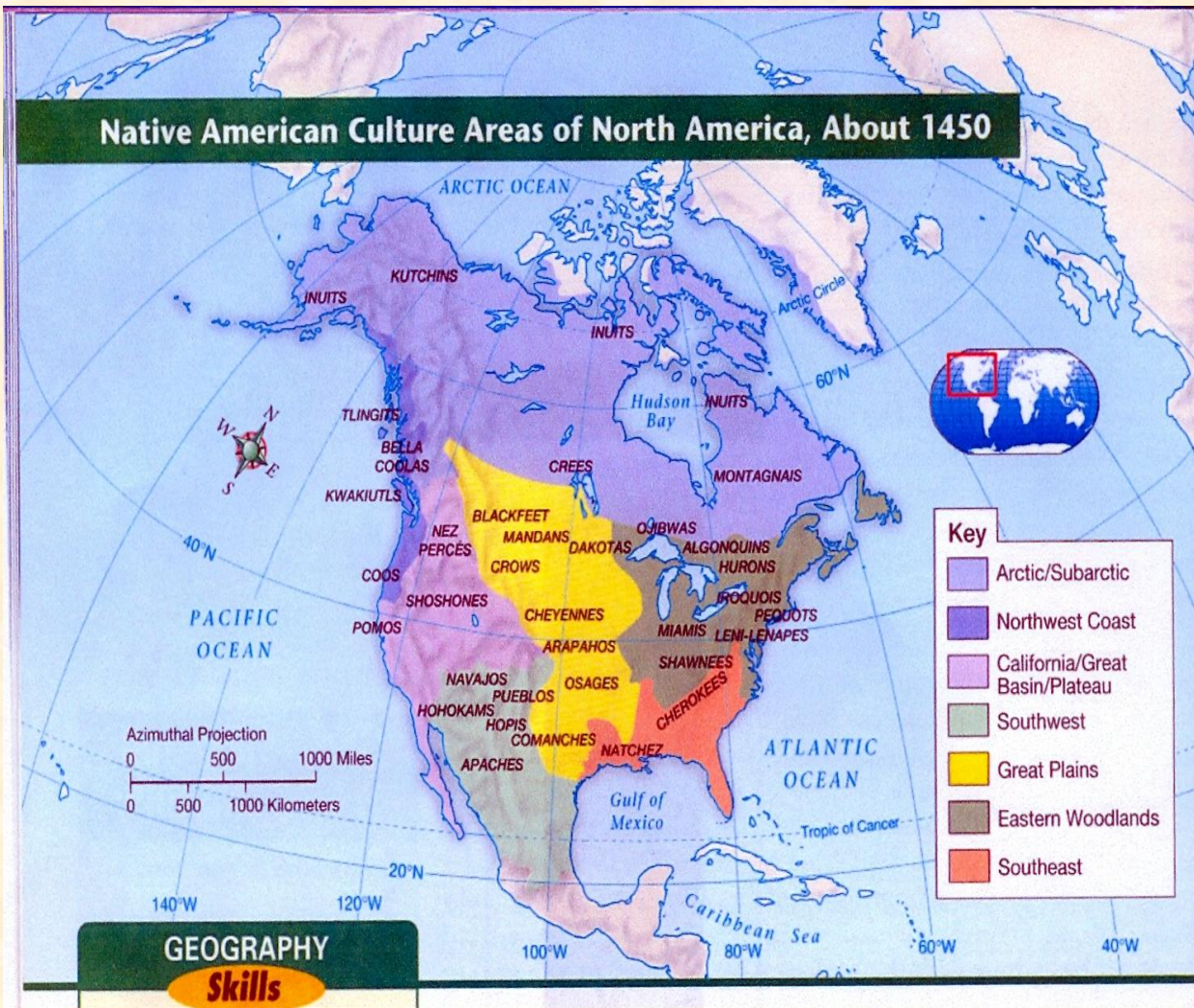


When Christopher Columbus reached the Americas he thought he landed in the East Indies or the islands off the coast of Asia.

Columbus called the people he met “Indos” because he thought the people were from the East Indies. People later used the term Indians to refer to the Native Americans.



In 1492 America had hundreds of different cultures living on the land, each culture had their own distinct language and culture. We will be learning about just a few of these cultures in our class.



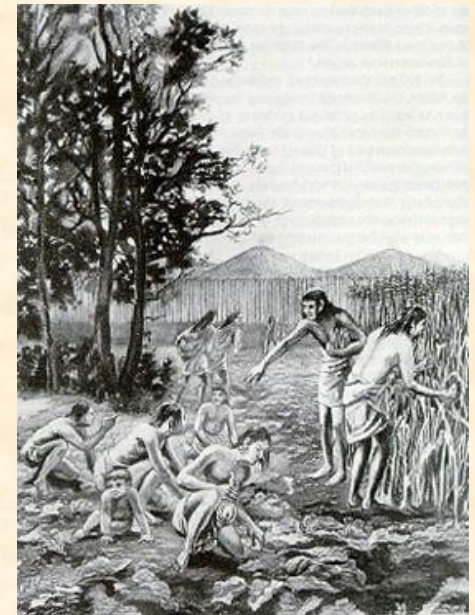
See this map on page 44 in your textbook



Native Americans met their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing. In some tribes they gathered nuts and fruits. Some tribes hunted for food or fished in the oceans.

The Cheyenne tribe used the buffalo for food and clothing.

Indian tribes traded with one another for good not found in their own region or area.



Some tribes grew their own food by farming.

Climate and natural resources played a role in shaping Native American cultures in different regions. Where climates were harsh natural resources were limited. Very often tribes had to travel from place to place to satisfy their basic needs.



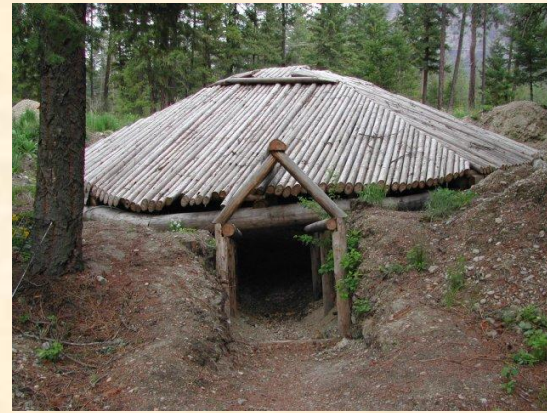
"Inuit Mother and Child"
by
Harley Brown



Cultures of the Far North and Plateau Regions

Many cultures areas stretched across the North America in the land we call the Arctic. In the far north, or in the Arctic the temperatures drop to 30 degrees below Fahrenheit (-30.) Snow was on the ground for most of the year. In the Arctic there are frozen seas and icy frozen plains. In this land the Native American people called the Inuits lived.





The Inuits collected driftwood from the ocean to make tools and weapons in the summer. For most of the year Inuits lived in [pit houses](#). Pit houses were shelters dug into the ground that were covered with wood and animal skins. In the winter, they built [igloos](#). An igloo was a house made up of snow and ice. Because food was scarce, the Inuits did not live in the same place or year round. In winter they would fish through the ice. They made boats out of animal skins. They called the boat they made a [kayak](#).

In the Plateau Region, of north America, were the Utes (yootz) and the Shoshones (shoh shoh neez). They collected pine nuts and dug roots in the dry soil. They hunted mountain sheep and rabbits. These Native Americans had few possessions beyond digging sticks, baskets, and the tools and weapons needed for hunting



**Shoshone and Ute
Indians**



Native American Culture Groups of North America

ARCTIC/SUBARCTIC

Crees, Inuits, Kutchins, Montagnais

Lived as nomadic hunters and food gatherers in cold climate; honored ocean, weather, and animal spirits



CALIFORNIA/GREAT BASIN/PLATEAU

Nez Percés, Pomos, Shoshones

Lived as hunters and gatherers in small family groups; ate mainly fish, berries, acorns



SOUTHWEST

Apaches, Hohokams, Hopis, Navajos, Pueblos

Lived in villages in homes made of adobe; built irrigation systems to grow corn and other crops; honored earth, sky, and water spirits



SOUTHEAST

Cherokees, Natchez

Grew corn, squash, beans, and other crops; held yearly Green Corn Ceremony to mark end of year and celebrate harvest



GREAT PLAINS

Arapahos, Blackfeet, Cheyennes, Comanches, Crows, Dakotas, Mandans, Osages

Lived in tepees; animals hunted by men; crops grown by women; relied on buffalo to meet basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing



EASTERN WOODLANDS

Algonquins, Ojibwas, Hurons, Iroquois, Leni-Lenapes, Miamis, Pequots, Shawnees

Lived in farming villages, but also hunted for food; long houses shared by several families; women shared social and political power



NORTHWEST COAST

Bella Coolas, Coos, Kwakiutls, Tlingits

Lived in villages; benefited from rich natural resources in forests, rivers, and ocean; held potlatches, or ceremonial dinners, where host families gave gifts to guests to show wealth and gain status



Cultures of the Northwest

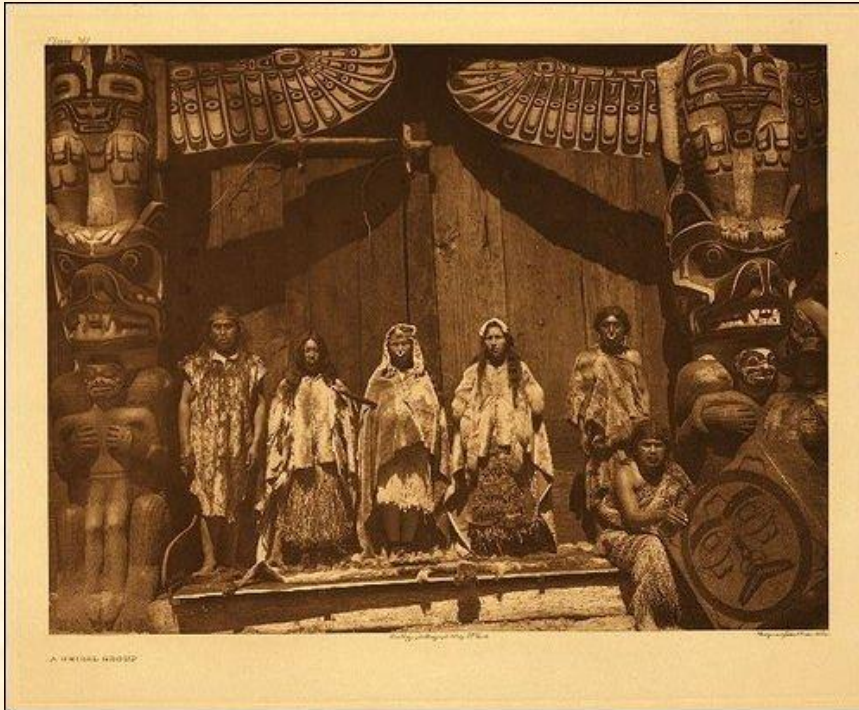
In the Northwest the climate was better. Native American had warmer climates temperatures than the Inuits.



The Northwest Native Americans had plenty of fish, lumber from trees to make homes and boats. They had plenty of animals to hunt. Because the land was plentiful they usually stayed in one place for their entire lives.

Families in the villages gained status by how much land they owned. Sometimes families competed against one another to improve their standing (or status) in the village.

Sometimes the families would hold a special ceremonial dinner to show off their wealth. This was called a potlatch.



Cultures of the Southeast

In the Southeast the climate was also good. Many tribes inhabited the southeastern region of North America. Among them were the Natchez and Cherokees.



The Natchez ruler was known as the Great Sun and was worshiped like a God. The rulers feet never touched the ground. He walked on mats.

Shared Beliefs



Many Native Americans had a wide variety of beliefs. Yet they shared the same basic ideas.

All Native Americans had a great respect for nature. Their prayers and ceremonies were designed to maintain a balance between people and the forces of nature. They believed in unseen forces and spirits. They honored these spirits that they thought acted like humans.



Special Ceremonies

Native Americans were farmers. They held special ceremonies to insure a good rainfall and a good harvest.



In the Southwest, held ceremonies with masked dancers who represented spirits called Kachinas. The native Americans believed that the Kachinas had the power to bring good harvests

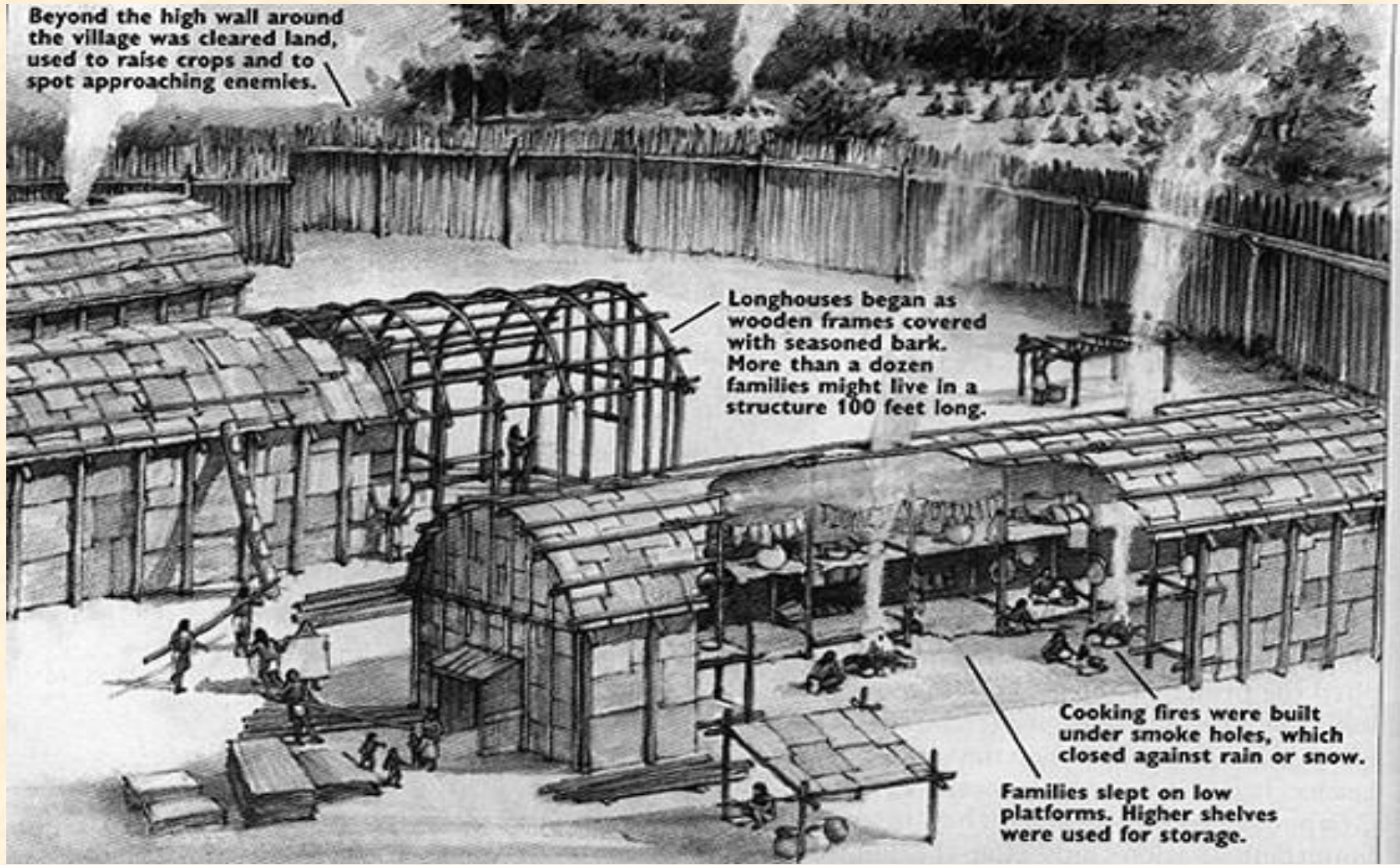
Centuries ago great grasslands extended across the Great Plains from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River. There were few trees on the Great Plains. The land was flat. People from the plains built their homes from sod (dirt) or grass.

They also used buffalo hides to make cone shaped tents called teepees. These people planted beans, squash and sunflowers. They hunted Buffalo, elk, deer, and big horned sheep. People of the Great Plains captured and trained horses for riding. Horses were not found up North. The Plains people became skilled riders.



The Iroquois Confederacy

- The Eastern Woodlands is made up of forests and open lands. The people who lived here hunted deer, moose, and other animals. They planted crops of corn, squash and pumpkins.
- The most powerful people of this region were called the Iroquois (Ih- uh kwoi). They live in the land we call present-day New York State.
- The Iroquois called themselves house builders. They built long houses out of poles sided with bark. A typical long house was about 50 feet long and 20 feet wide. A hallway, with small rooms on either side, ran the length of the long house. Each room was a home to one family. Families living across from each other shared a common fireplace and hallway.



Beyond the high wall around the village was cleared land, used to raise crops and to spot approaching enemies.

Longhouses began as wooden frames covered with seasoned bark. More than a dozen families might live in a structure 100 feet long.

Cooking fires were built under smoke holes, which closed against rain or snow.

Families slept on low platforms. Higher shelves were used for storage.

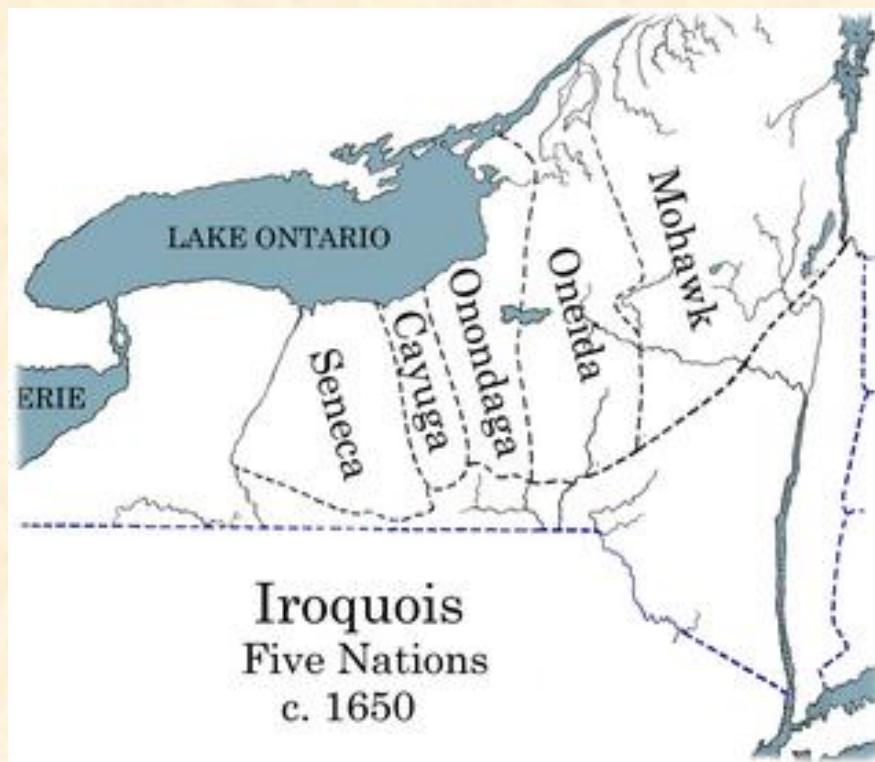
The long house



[An Iroquois Long House.](#)

Women had a special place among the Iroquois. They owned all the property in the long house. Also, they were in charge of planting and harvesting crops. When an Iroquois man married he moved in with his wife's family.

Women also held political power. They chose the sachems. A sachem was the tribal chiefs or leaders. The Iroquois included five tribal nations and they are:



Mohawk
Seneca
Onondaga
Oneida
Cayuga

These tribal nations made up the Iroquois Confederacy

These five nations fought constantly. A religious leader inspired Hiawatha, a Mohawk, to organize a union of the five nations. The union or alliance was known as the [League of the Iroquois](#).

According to a legend the League of the Iroquois made this promise:

“We bind ourselves together by taking hold of each other’s hands...Our strength shall be in union, our way the way of reason, righteousness and peace...

*Be of strong mind,
O chiefs, Carry no anger and hold no grudges.”*

What did the founders mean by this statement?



A council of 50 members, chosen by women made all the decisions for the league. Each nation had one vote. The council could only take action if all nations agreed.



3. Trade Networks of Africa and Asia The Muslim World

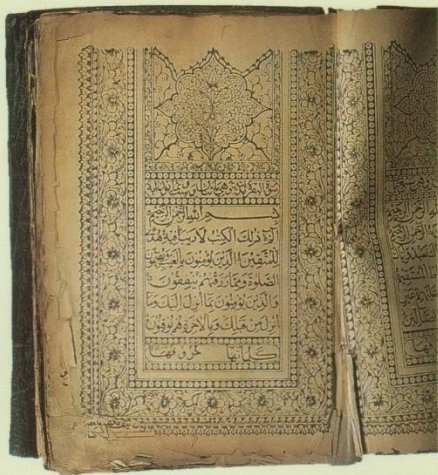
Arab merchants played a large role in the growing trade. Arabia's location made it the major crossroads of the world. It stood in the middle of the trade routes that linked the Mediterranean world in the west with Asia in the east and Africa in the south.



Some Muslim traders traveled the overland routes that crossed grasslands, mountains, and deserts of Central Asia and linked China and the Middle East. These routes were called the [Silk Road](#) because it prized Chinese silks and had been carried westward along them for more than 2,000 years.



This growth of trade was also linked to a new religion known as Islam. This religion was founded by the prophet Muhammad. The central teaching of Islam was the belief in one God, or Allah. Their bible or sacred book was called the Quran. It revealed the exact word of God as revealed to Muhammad.



The
Quran



Africa Trading States and Cultures

Trade routes played a large role in Africa. Long-distance trade routes crossed the vast Sahara, the desert linking West Africa and North Africa. They traded gold, fabrics, jewelry, salt and dried fish. *Gold* was traded from [Zimbabwe](#) and carried to the costal cities of Kilwa and Sofala. Hardwoods and Ivory were carried across Africa to China.

Wealth from trade helped local East African rulers build strong [city-states](#). A city state is a large town that had its own government and controlled the surrounding countryside.



Many rulers of African city-states became Muslims. This blend of the Muslim religion and African culture led to the development of a new language called Swahili, which blended Arabic words from local African languages.

Much of West Africa is covered by a region of grasslands called the savanna. Several rich trading kingdoms emerged from there. The kingdom of Mali rose about 1200 A.D. and flourished in about 200 years.



Savanna



In the 1400's Songhai emerged as the most powerful kingdom in South Africa. Muslim emperors extended Songhai's power and made Timbuktu into a thriving city.

Family relationships were important to African cultures. Although family patterns differed, many people lived within an extended family. In an extended family, several generations live in one household. This included Grandparents, parents, children and sometimes aunts and uncles.

Ties of kinship, or sharing a common ancestor linked families together.



Chinese Voyages of Trade and Exploration

China's culture was different than the culture in the African Kingdoms.



In 1402 the Chinese emperor, was eager to trade. He had a fleet of about 300 ships built and called them, Zheng He. Between 1405 and 1433 the Chinese fleet traded with ports in Southeast Asia, India, and Arabia.

The fleet returned back with exotic goods and animals, such as giraffes. The Chinese trade influenced many places. After Zheng He's death China, the new emperor changed trading policies. He outlawed foreign trade and travel. The great fleet was left to rot in coastal ports.



What do you think might have happened if the Zheng He fleet might have reached the America's before Christopher Columbus?

4. Tradition and Change in Europe **Jewish and Christian Traditions**

In the period from A.D. 500 to 400 Judaism and Christianity played a large role in shaping Middle East society. Judaism referred to the religious beliefs of the Israelites who lived more than 3,000 years ago. Later the Israelites became known as the Jews.



Jews believed in one God. The history of the Jews is located in the sacred Torah . Jews believed that every person must follow the Ten Commandments or Jewish laws.





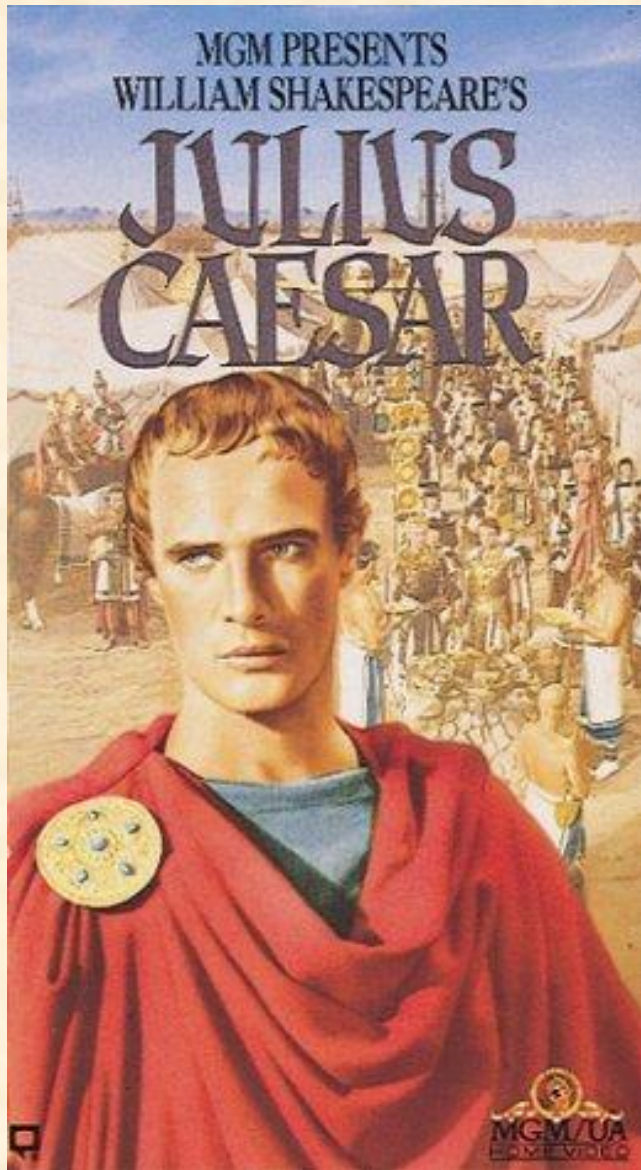
About 2,000 years ago, a Jew named Jesus lived in a province of a Roman empire. Jesus taught that anyone, rich or poor, could achieve *salvation* or everlasting life. Christians organized a church with its own government and officials. The church sent out *missionaries*, people who spread the teachings of Christianity to Europe and Africa.

Greek and Roman Traditions

Around 500 B.C. the civilization of the ancient Greece shaped Europe. They entered the golden age. Greek artists and writers created great masterpieces that are still admired today. Greek thinkers like Socrates and Aristotle valued human reason. They used reason to explain the world around them. Greek doctors tried to treat diseases using scientific methods.

Greeks did not live in large empires; instead they lived in small city-states. In ancient Athens a Direct Democracy was created. A Direct Democracy is a form of government in which ordinary citizens have the right to govern.





In 509 B.C. the Romans overthrew the Greek government and set up a republic. In a republic the citizens choose representatives to govern them. Among the leaders of the Romans was Julius Caesar. The Roman Empire lasted about 500 years. Soon invaders attacked the Roman Empire and split Europe into many small warring kingdoms.

Early Contracts

Many people learned to adapt their environment in the vast land we call today, the Americas. Soon in the late 1400's many strangers came from lands located across the ocean. The first was [Christopher Columbus](#) in 1492. Other Europeans soon followed in his footsteps arriving to the land of the Americas. Hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus the Vikings arrived in the Americas.

Christopher
Columbus in 1492



In 1492, [Christopher Columbus](#) first landed on a small Caribbean Island. He met a people called the [Tainos](#). Columbus had no respect for the people on the islands. He claimed the island for himself. He forced the Tainos people to work in the mines, on ranches and Spanish households. Within 100 years the Tainos people were destroyed. This type of action was repeated throughout American history.



Native American Influences

The 1492 encounter introduced the Europeans to Native American cultures. Europeans learned new ways to farm from the Native Americans. They also learned of new foods such as corn, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, squash, peanuts, pineapples and berries. Europeans learned to use the Native American language. Such words as moose, chipmunks and raccoons came from the Native American languages. The Native Americans taught the Europeans how to survive. They showed the newcomers how to grow food and how to hunt for food. The Native Americans showed the Europeans new medicines unknown to the Europeans.



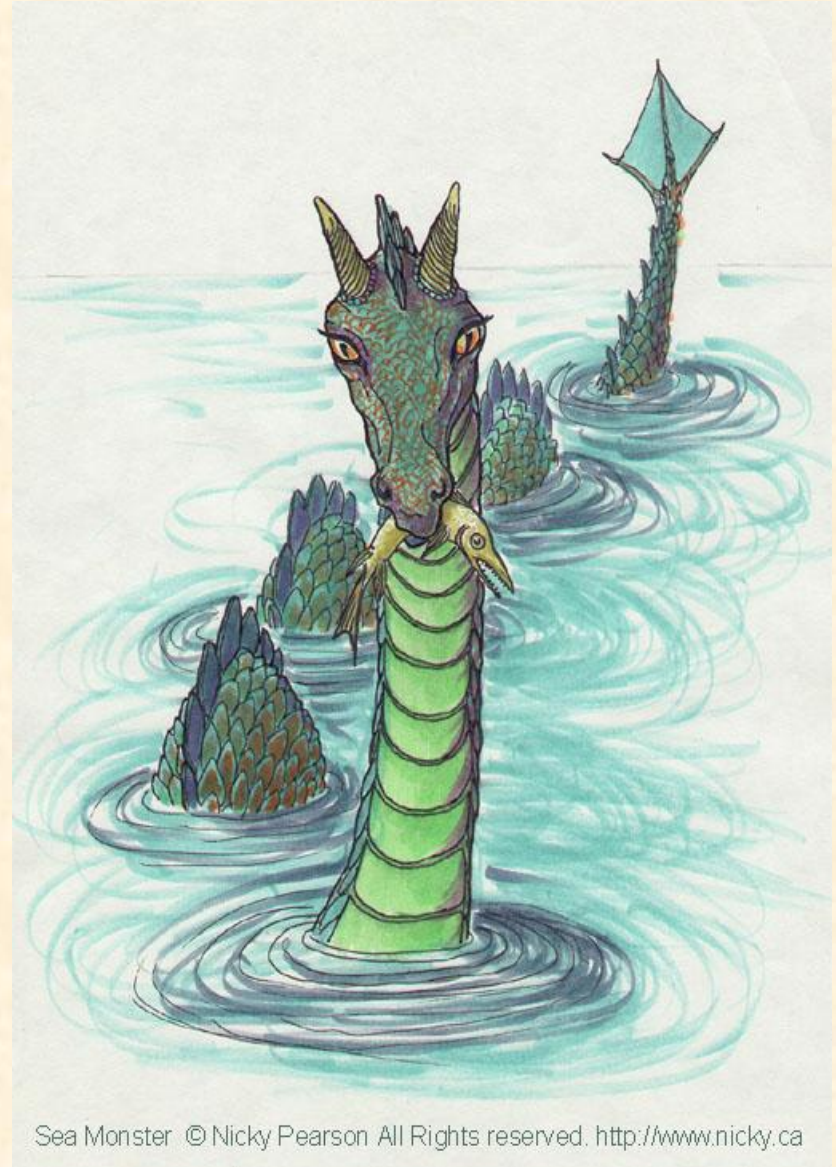
3. Trade Networks in Africa and Asia

Ibn Battuta was a scholar from North Africa who wanted to learn about the many lands and peoples of the Muslim world. He traded goods with Africa and the Middle East thus connecting these worlds. For the first time far off lands began to become linked. Historians called this period of time the *First Global Age*.



The Middle Ages

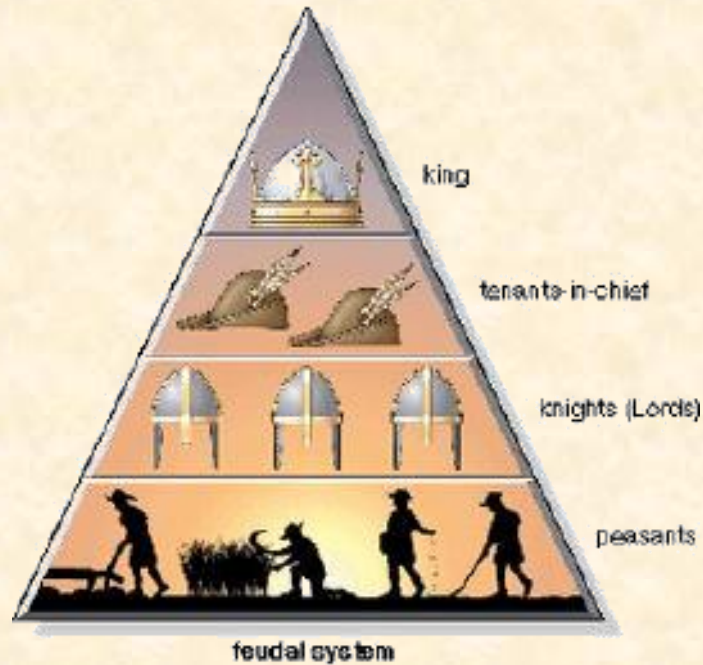
During the Middle Ages about 500 to 1350, the Europeans thought the world was a disk floating on the great ocean. Most Europeans knew little about the lands beyond their small villages. Even map makers called the water around Europe “the sea of darkness.” They spoke about great tales of monsters living in the waters around Europe. We know today that these stories are untrue, back then people believed the stories about great darkness.



Sea Monster © Nicky Pearson All Rights reserved. <http://www.nicky.ca>

During the Middle Ages, weak the European king's and queens divided in their lands among powerful nobles. These nobles had their own armies and court but still owed a loyalty to their king. They were called *Lords*. This system of rule was called Feudalism.



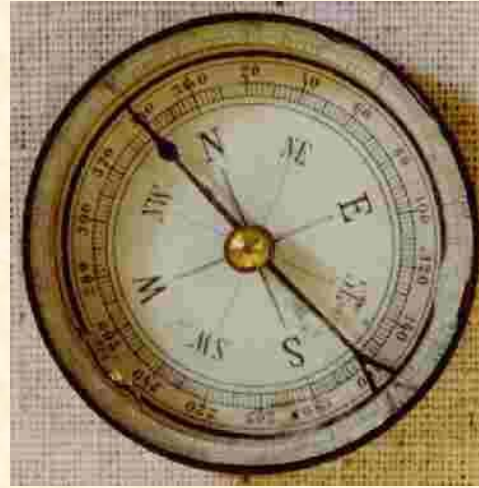


Most life in Europe revolved around these Lords. The manor included the Lord's castle, peasant's huts, and surrounding villages or fields. Most people were serfs, or peasants bound to the land for life. Serfs worked for the Lord and could not leave the land without permission.

During the Middle Ages Christians followed the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. This church had a great influence on everyone. Christian people referred to the Middle East as the Holy Land because Jesus had lived and died there. From about 1100 to 1300, the Roman Catholic Church fought a series of religious wars to gain control of Holy Land. These wars were known as the *Crusades*.



Trade brought about new knowledge. Arabian people taught battalion sailors have to use a new instrument called the magnetic compass.



Another useful instrument was the astrolabe which helped sailors determine the latitude while at sea. These new instruments let Europeans sail out to sea and make new discoveries.





The crusaders did not regain the Holy Land but they traveled far beyond their small towns. Many ate strange foods, such as rice, oranges, and dates. Soon they began to trade with some merchants of the Middle East.



Renaissance

The Elizabethan World

Increased trade and travel made Europeans curious about other parts of the world. Scholars translated the works and ancient Greeks, Romans and Arabs. They made great discoveries in the areas of medicine, astronomy, and industry. This burst of learning was called the Renaissance. During the Renaissance trade increased prosperity so the rulers set out to increase their power. The kings sent out ships to discover the riches of Africa, Europe and Asia.

THE END