

10.3 Pre-Contact North & South America :: Empires of the Sun

- 1) **North American tribes and nations**
  - **Hunters & Gatherers + Agriculturalists of the Eastern Woodlands** - tribes in east had non-permanent villages. Architecture: **wigwam** and **longhouse** semi-permanent
  - **Hunters & Gatherers of the Western Plains** - tribes in east had non-permanent villages. Architecture: **tipi** moved from place to place on a **travois**
  - **Hunters & Gatherers + Agriculturalists of the Southwest** - Anasazi tribes and others in mountainous high plains created permanent villages. Architecture: **pit houses** and **cliff dwellings** - now exist as ruins
  - Like the Mesoamericans: did not have the advent of the *wheel*
  - Like the Mesoamericans: did not have *metallurgy* (no metal-working tools found - obsidian ones)
  - Like the Mesoamericans: limited or no written language prior to 200 CE. Mayans did have hieroglyphics.
  
- 2) **Mississippian** cultures — pre-contact, **800-1400 CE**. Disappeared about 1400.
  - **Serpent Mound** in southern Ohio built by the **Fort Ancient culture** (c 1000)
  - **Cahokia Mounds** and **Monk's Mound** in Illinois built by **Middle Mississippian culture (c 1200)**
  - Bynum Mounds along Natchez Trace, 100 CE
  - Emerald Mound near Natchez
  - Moundville near Tuscaloosa
  
- 3) **Anasazi** culture — a subset of the **Pueblo**
  - **Chaco Canyon** in northwest portion of modern-day New Mexico
  - Capital City: **Pueblo Bonito** (800-1200 CE) then abandoned.
  - Hunting, gathering, subsistence farming, trade, building with sandstone
  - The **Kiva** the sacred circular chamber for the elders supported by curved walls & pilasters, has a smoke hole
  
  - **Cliff Palaces of Mesa Verde** 120 miles north of Chaco under cover of the cliff
  - Mesa Verde indians began building the pueblo structures about 650 CE though 1200 CE and possibly afterwards.
  - Also: Hunting, gathering, subsistence farming, trade, building with sandstone
  
- 4) **Aztek** culture — area of modern day Mexico City
  - **Tenochtitlán** - (te-NOCH-tit-lan) The ancient **Aztek** capital city founded **1325 CE**
  - Tenochtitlan dominated nearby cities, due to its strategic location in **Lake Texcoco**
  - Founded there due to sighting of an eagle eating a serpent - a Mexican symbol still used today
  - **Chinampas** were the floating agricultural gardens that supplied the city. Destroyed by Cortez when he conquered the Aztecs about 1520.
  - From about **1500-1520** Aztec ruled by **Montezuma**. Spanish Conquistadors conquered Aztec in 1521.
  - **Montezuma's Palace**
  - **Great Temple** (Coatepeti) (CO-ah-te-PET-ee) focus of a large and sophisticated city that included aqueducts, bridges, means of production, means of defense and other accommodations. Aztecs conducted brutal human sacrifices of living people and may have engaged in cannibalism of these enemies after the sacrifice
  
- 5) **Inca** culture — Inca actually means son of the solar deity *Inti*
  - Incan culture looked back to: **Nazca Lines** in Peru
  - Incan culture looked back to: **Chavin de Huantar** in Peru
  - **Cuzco, Peru** the Incan capital city — *shaped like a puma*
  - **Huacaypata Square** was the belly of the puma. Centralized town market square serving the people.
  - **Sacsayhuaman Temple** was the head of the puma. A temple of robust and refined masonry. Incredible joinery of stone. Mysterious how it was used.
  - **Cancha** block construction
  - **Sophisticated public works of the Inca**
  - **Machu Picchu** (Peru) an isolated mountain estate or citadel for the Incan emperor Pachacuti, possibly beginning about 1450. Machu Picchu possibly abandoned by 1550 and not "rediscovered" until the 20th century.
  - Very sophisticated terracing, structures, and other architectural and infrastructural works using dry laid stone
  - Possibly of sacred or ritualistic significance, to wit: **Hitching Post to the Sun**.