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| 1. Evaluate the following statement about ancient Americans: The absence of written sources means that ancient human beings' history cannot be reconstructed with the detail and certainty made possible by writing.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include: Written Sources:* The absence of written sources about ancient Americans means that we cannot know about their individual lives with any certainty. We can, however, use artifacts and environmental features to understand some elements of the places they inhabited and cultures they established. *Artifacts:* Archaeologists focus on artifacts such as bones, spear points, pots, baskets, and buildings. Weapons and tools give us some information about the diversity of ancient Americans' diets and their adaptations to their environments. In addition, archaeologists study soil, climate, and other environmental features in order to partially reconstruct the world inhabited by ancient Americans. | |

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| 2. Describe the two major developments that made it possible for human beings to migrate to the Western Hemisphere from Asia.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include: Adaptation to a New Environment:* Humans who migrated from Africa into present-day Europe and Asia learned to adapt to the frigid environment near the Arctic Circle. They learned to use bone needles to sew animal skins into warm clothing that allowed them to live permanently in cold regions, and they also learned to hunt the large game animals that lived there. *A Path to North America:* A global cold spell lowered the sea level and exposed a land bridge called Beringia, which Siberian hunters traversed to come to the North American continent. | |

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| 3. Describe the two major adaptations the Paleo-Indians made in their way of life as the mammoths and other large game they hunted became extinct.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include*: *Change of Game:* The Paleo-Indians adapted primarily to the extinction of mammoths and other large game in North America by preying more intensively on smaller animals. *Change to Foraging for Food:* Paleo-Indians devoted much more of their time and energy to foraging or gathering wild plant foods, such as roots, seeds, nuts, berries, and fruit. The switch from big-game hunting to foraging also allowed the Paleo-Indians to diversify their culture and adapt to many different environments in order to survive. | |

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| 4. Explain how the adoption of bows and arrows affected Great Plains hunters' livelihoods.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include: Ease of Hunting:* With the adoption of bows and arrows in about AD 500, the Great Plains hunters could make their hunting weapons more easily, wound animals from farther away, and shoot at prey repeatedly. They continued to hunt on foot, however, and to follow the group's age-old practices of bison hunting. | |

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| 5. Explain the factors that contributed to cultural diversity among ancient peoples of present-day California. How did this compare with other regions of ancient America?   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include*: *Environment:* California had an incredibly rich natural environment that provided an ample food supply; this area became the most densely settled area in all of ancient North America. *Food Sources:* The richness and diversity of the land and proximity to the ocean provided the many tribes with an abundant source of wild food and other natural resources. As a result, California peoples remained hunters and gatherers for hundreds of years, unlike some other peoples of ancient America who began to cultivate crops | |

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| 6. Describe the ways that Eastern Woodland cultures interacted with the natural environment. What challenges and opportunities did they encounter?   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include*: *Forest Environment:* Eastern Woodland peoples adapted to a forest environment that included local variants such as river valleys, the Great Lakes, and the Atlantic coast. All Woodland groups made deer—which provided food as well as hides and bones that could be crafted into clothing, weapons, and other tools—their most important prey. These groups also gathered edible plants, seeds, and nuts. They established small, permanent settlements near rivers and lakes that provided additional plant and animal resources. After 4000 BP, these cultures also added agriculture and pottery to their lifestyles. *Life Expectancy:* Their primary challenge was their short life expectancy (eighteen years), which must have made it difficult for them to learn and teach all the skills necessary to survive, reproduce, and adapt to change. | |

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| 7. Discuss how climate shaped the lives of Ancient Americans in present-day Arizona, New Mexico, and southern portions of Utah and Colorado. How did southwestern Indians confront climate problems? How did they remain vulnerable?   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include*: *Climate Adaptations:* Southwestern peoples confronted a dry climate and unpredictable fluctuations in rainfall. As a result, the supply of wild plant food was very unreliable*.* These ancient Americans probably adopted agriculture in response to environmental uncertainty. They began to cultivate corn, and they became irrigation experts, conserving water from streams, springs, and rainfall and distributing it to crops. *Continued Vulnerability*: The Hohokam may have declined due to rising salinity in the soil, and drought triggered the disappearance of the Anasazi. | |

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| 8. Around 2500 BP, members of Woodland cultures in the vast Mississippi Valley began to construct burial mounds and other earthworks, suggesting the existence of social and political hierarchies that archaeologists term *chiefdoms.* Define chiefdoms and briefly explain what archaeologists have found in burial mounds and what these objects reveal about Woodland cultures.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include: Chiefdoms:* Chiefdoms are a form of social and political hierarchy in which one person—a chief—commands the labor and obedience of a very large number of other people. Archaeologists believe that Woodland cultures in the Mississippi Valley were chiefdoms because of the existence of large, complex burial mounds that would have required an organized labor force to build. *Surviving Artifacts:* The Adena people usually included grave goods such as spear points and stone pipes in their burial mounds. Hopewell people built even larger mounds and filled them with more magnificent objects. Grave goods at Hopewell sites testify to the high quality of Hopewell crafts and to a thriving trade network that ranged from present-day Wyoming to Florida. | |

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| 9. The four million Native Americans in North America in 1492 differed in where they lived and how their cultures had adapted to their local natural environments, but they also had many similarities. Describe how these cultures were similar to one another and how they differed from the culture of Europe at the time.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include*: *Native American Practices:* North America in 1492 contained a wide variety of Native American cultures, but these groups were also united by similarities, including diets, that relied on some combination of hunting, gathering, and agriculture, as well as the use of bows and arrows for hunting and warfare. None of these groups used writing, but they expressed themselves using drawings, patterns woven in baskets and textiles, and designs painted on pottery or crafted into beadwork, as well as through song, dance, religious ceremonies, and burial rites. *Cultural Differences with Europeans:* The Native American groups were very different from European cultures at the time. Their population was much less dense. They did not use wheels or sailing ships, they had no large domesticated animals, and their use of metals was restricted to copper. | |

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| 10. Describe the size and scope of the Mexica Empire at the time of its discovery by the Europeans after 1492, and explain how it became so large in physical size and population.   |  |  | | --- | --- | | *ANSWER:* | *Answer would ideally include*: *Mexica Empire:* When Europeans encountered the Mexica Empire in 1492, it stretched from coast to coast across central Mexico. It covered more land than Spain and Portugal combined and had a population of about six million. *The Mexica Rise to Power:* The Mexica Empire began its rise to prominence in AD 1325, when Mexica warriors began to act as mercenaries for richer and more settled tribes. They used their power and began to assert dominance over their former allies and led their own military campaigns aimed at building a great empire. The Mexica then forced the conquered tribes to pay tribute in the form of goods such as food, textiles, and gold, and even humans for sacrifice in order to maintain their power and wealth. | |