

CHAPTER 2: THE FIRST AMERICANS

Core Lesson 1: Ancient Americans pgs 38- 43

People Arrive in the Americas:

- People began arriving in the Americas around 27,000 years ago
- Theory:
A theory is an explanation or belief
about
- Theory #1: Hunters first came to the Americas across a land bridge between Asia and North America.
- Theory #2: People traveled by boat along the coast or across the oceans.

Beringia:

- Thousands of years ago, during the Ice Age, glaciers covered most of the world.
- At the Bering straits, between Alaska and Asia, the ocean floor became grassland and formed a bridge called BERINGIA.
- Many animals lived in Beringia and hunters followed these animals across the land bridge to North America.
- Migration is the movement from one region to another.

- The migration over the land bridge ended around 10,000 years ago when the Ice Age ended and the glaciers started to melt and covered the land bridge between Asia and North America.
- The people who followed the animal herds across the land bridge moved south.
- The hunters spread across North and South America
- Paleo-Indians:

Ancestors of modern American Indians

- Paleo= means "past"

Civilizations Develop:

- Farming led to villages, more people, and civilizations.
- Adapt:

Change a way of life to fit the environment

- Over time, people adapted to changes in their surroundings.
- Paleo-Indians began to use agriculture to feed themselves.
- They gathered seeds of wild plants and learned how to grow them as crops:

1. Squash
2. beans
3. corn

} "3 sisters"

- Agriculture changed the way people ate and the way people lived.

- Paleo-Indians began staying in one place to care for their crops. Populations grew, villages and cities were built. These changes were part of the growth of Civilization!

The Mound Builders:

- The Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippians (THE MOUND BUILDERS) were among the earliest people to create large, complex villages in North America
- They built mounds to bury their dead, keep jewelry, tools, and pottery.
- One of the most famous Mississippian sites is located in Cahokia, Illinois where 85 mounds still exist today!
- Adena and Hopewell lived in what is now the Ohio River Valley.
- Adena made animals or symbols shapes out of their mounds. Example: The Great Serpent Mound

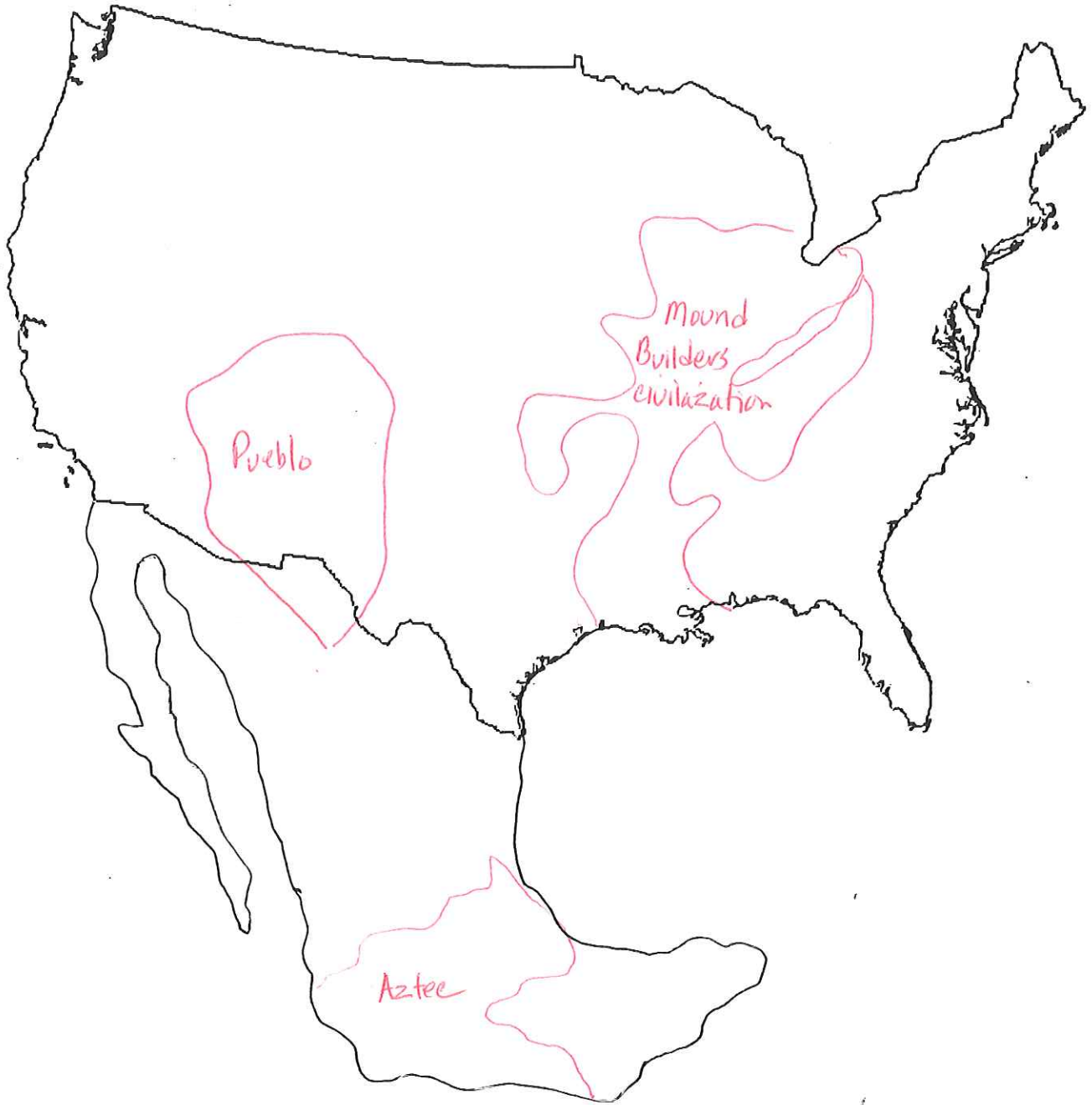
Ancient Pueblo Peoples:

- Lived in what is now the Southwest
- Some Ancient Pueblos lived in large buildings made out of mud and stone with many rooms—they looked like towns.
- They could group these homes on top of one another

- Pueblo Bonito was built in New Mexico. It was 4-5 stories high with hundreds of rooms.
- Kiva are underground rooms and used for religious ceremonies.
- Today the descendants of the Ancient Pueblo live in Arizona, New Mexico, and northern Mexico

The Aztecs:

- This civilization ruled Central Mexico for about 200 years. Their capital city was Tenochtitlan.
- The Aztecs made their own calendar.
- The Aztecs built large temples that had a court for playing a game similar to basketball.



Pueblo

Mound
Builders
civilization

Aztec

