Pre-European North America

Pre-1492
Pre Class Discussion Questions

In your JOURNAL answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each

• What do you think of when you think of Native Americans (American Indians)?
• What does the word civilized mean?
• Were Native Americans civilized? Why? Or Why not?
Beringia

• 25,000 – 12,000 years ago
  – Land bridge from eastern Russia to Alaska

• Human Migration Theory
  – Theory that claims that humans migrated from Siberia to North America via Beringia
    • Controversial in Christian and Native American beliefs
      – Linked to “Out of Africa” theory
First Peoples – Paleo-Indians

- 12,000 – 8,000 years ago
  - Archeological Evidence (spear points) give evidence of inhabitants
  - Came as the Wisconsin Age ended and the Glaciers retreated
  - Landscape was completely untouched and raw
  - Came following large herd of big game (nomadic)
Archaic Period

• 8,000 – 2,500 years ago
• Hunters and foragers
• Characterized by use of copper and notched or stemmed projectiles
• More sedentary of a lifestyle
• Regionalization of family groups
Woodland

2,500 – 300 years ago

• Characterized by complexes of burial mounds
• Technological advances
  – Bows and Arrows
  – Pottery
• Development of villages and social structure
  – Farmers/Artisans/etc
Mississippian

1000 - 300 years ago

• Technological
  – Potter Globular
  – Smaller projectile points
  – Gardening implements
• Permanent Village sites
• Intensive farming
  – Corn, squash, beans
• Social Stratification
  – Chief/Worker/etc...
Cahokia

- Ancient city
  - Near site of modern day Saint Louis, MO
- Thought to be as big as 40,000 people
  - Biggest city in North America till after American Revolution
Cahokia
Southwest Tribes

- In Southwest Anasazi, Hohokam, and Pueblo cultures had learned to live in the harsh desert climates
  - Irrigation Canals
  - Trade networks
  - System of Roads
Pre-Columbian Tribes
Pre-Columbian Statistics

• Before Columbus there were anywhere between 25-100 million people in North America
  – Europe only had about 70 million

• Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City) had about 300,000
  – London about 75,000
Critical Thinking

• How do you think Native Americans would react to new people moving onto their land?
  – How would you react?