

Who were the first Americans?

Indians? Native Americans or
American Indians

Whose Fault?

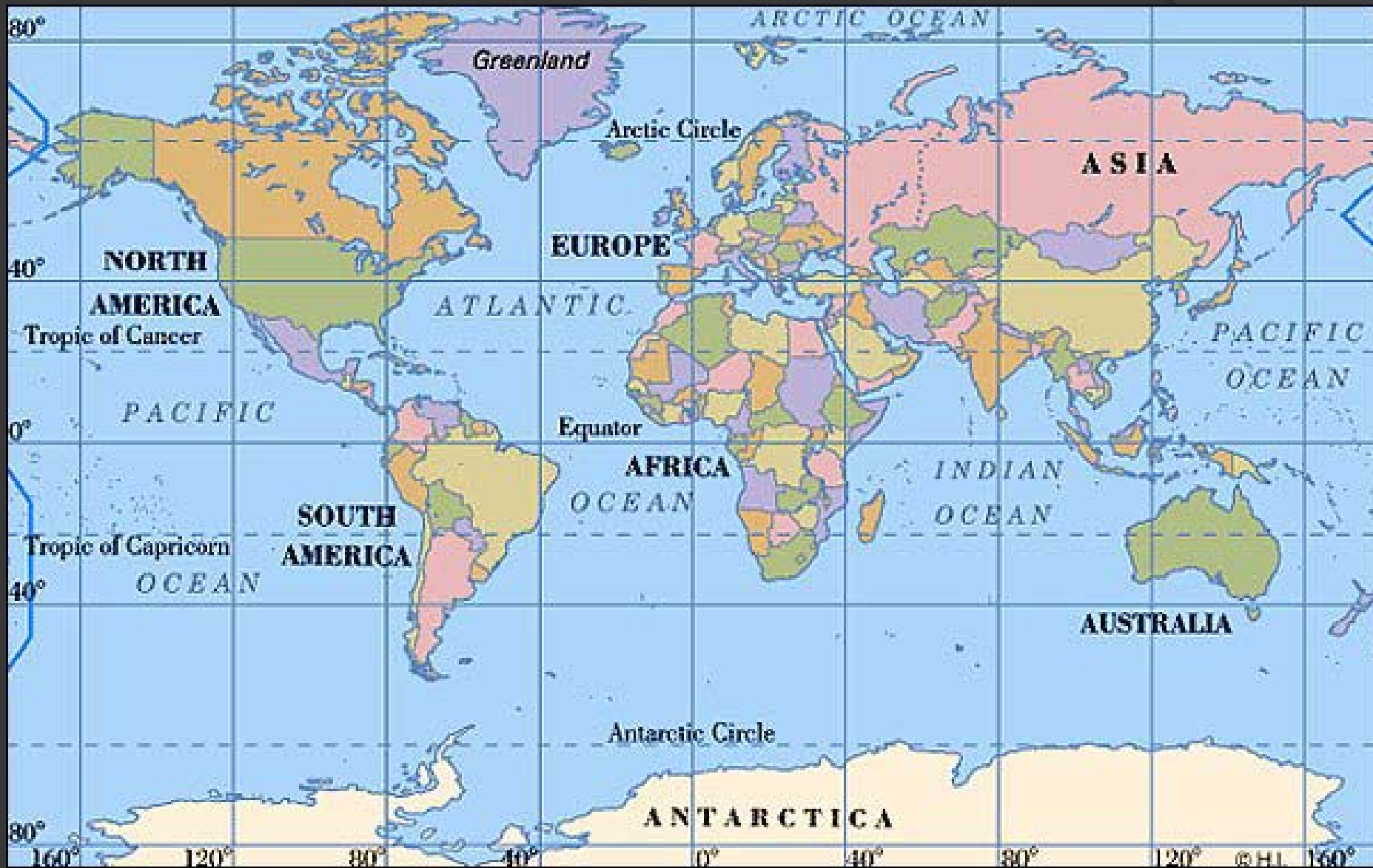
Christopher Columbus:

Spanish word “Indios”

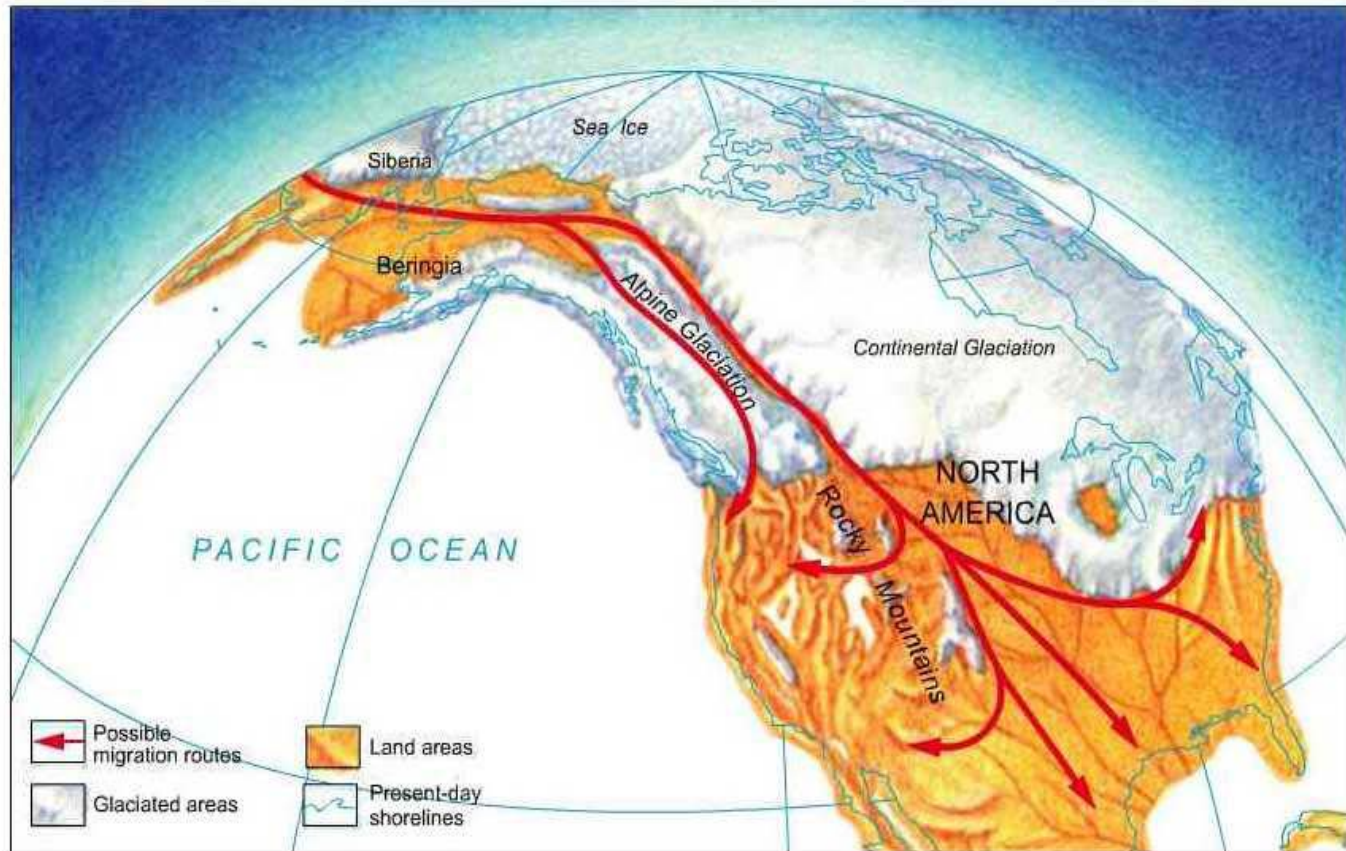
English: Indian

Native Americans at 1500

- Over 2000 different cultures
- Hundreds of Languages
- Spread over North and South America in a variety of environments



One theory for how people got to North America:



Routes of the First Americans



Berengia

- Siberia + Bering Straits = Berengia
- Sea levels were 300 feet lower then
- Migrations may have begun 30,000 to 12,000 years ago
- End of ice age opened up a path from “Berengia” to North America





AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



This is about the size of
the mammoth skeleton
found in the early 1900s
in the Yukon region of
Alaska. It is the largest
mammoth ever found
in North America. It is
the largest mammoth
ever found in North
America.



1.8 m (6 ft)
3.5 m (11 ft 6 in)

2nd Migration 5,000 years ago

- ⦿ Athapascan or “Na-Dene” people
- ⦿ Eventually settled in the American Southwest
- ⦿ Apache and Navajos

3rd Migration

- 3000 years ago
- Inuits (Eskimos)

Clovis Point Technology

- 11,000 years ago, ancient Americans developed a new technology for hunting: the Clovis point
- Spread quickly through migration and travel



- ① What is the point of Clovis technology?
(ha ha)
- ① Native American culture was interrelated
and vibrant

“Pleistocene Overkill”

- ◎ Large mammals were killed off
- ◎ Native Americans figured out how to kill these animals efficiently
 - Stampede over cliffs

Archaic Period

- 10,000 to 2,500 years ago
- Warming trend occurred, making a desert in present-day Utah
- Hunting and gathering skills spread to much of North America
- Farming developed 5,000 years ago in Mexico

Effects of Farming

- Clans formed
- People started to specialize in certain things: tool making, farming, government, etc.
- Large, settled communities formed in Mesoamerica
- Mesoamerica is in central Mexico and Central America

North American Farming Cultures

⦿ Anasazis

- Western US
- Built “Pueblos”
- Grew “maize” (corn)

⦿ Woodland Culture

- Eastern US
- Practiced Mound Building
- Adena and Hopewell are examples

Great Serpent Mound



North American Farming Cultures

● Mississippian

- Used bow and arrow
- Built temples and urban sites with thousands of residents
- Grew a new variety of corn

Indian America at 1492

- ◎ Population: 5 to 10 million
- ◎ Northeastern language groups:
 - Iroquois Confederacy of five tribes was formed just prior to 1492 to stop violence among different tribes
 - Confederacy: loose agreement to cooperate on certain issues
 - Algonquian
 - 50 distinct cultures within this language group