Coastal Route
Explorers from East Asia may have paddled small boats to southern Beringia and down the western coast of the Americas starting as early as 16,000 years ago. The British Columbian coast was rid of ice by then, and migrants would have had access to a bounty of marine mammals and fish. The earliest known site near the coast, Monte Verde in Chile, dates to just 14,600 years ago; however, the thawing of the ice sheets during the last glacial period may have drowned the oldest sites along the ancient coastline.

Land Route: Ice-Free Corridor
According to the Clovis First model, the Cordilleran and Laurentide ice sheets did not part ways until 13,000 years ago, thus barring a pre-Clovis overland migration into the Americas. But fresh geologic data indicate that the corridor opened by 15,000 years ago. Travelers along this route may have hunted birds and brought dogs with them to carry their gear. Trekking 16 kilometers a day, the migrants could have reached the end of the corridor in four months.
1. MIGRATION
   1. Early Settlers (Americas)
   2. Theory 1 - Glacial Maximum
   3. Theory 2 - Pacific
   4. Paleo Indians
   5. Archaic

2. ORIGINS
   1. Development of Civilization
   2. Who are the Maya?
   3. Language
   4. Geography
   5. Environment
   6. Historical periods

3. SURVIVAL
   1. Agriculture (techniques)
   2. Subsistence economy
   3. Ecological Adaptation
   4. Productivity
   5. Trade system

4. SOCIETY
   1. Social Life
   2. Governance
   3. Authority
   4. Caste System

5. BELIEFS
   1. World view
   2. Order and control
   3. Creation story
   4. Religion

6. THINKING
   1. Interpreting the Skies
   2. Astronomy
   3. Calendars

7. CREATIVITY
   1. Mathematics
   2. Writing
   3. Art
   4. Architecture

8. COLLAPSE
   1. Decline of civilization
   2. Environmental
   3. Socio-political

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Belizean History - Semester 2

MAYA

8 UNITS of study
PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Migration of Homo sapiens
KEY QUESTIONS

Driving historical questions: Historical categories of inquiry

1. How did the migration outside of Africa impact the new world? (Cause and effect)

2. What made the Paleo Indians and archaic people turn to different sources of food? How did these changes affect their life? (change and continuity)

3. What did these early settlers value? What skills did they need to survive? Did they have a religion? Was God the priority? (Through their eyes?)
There are two theories in regards to how the settlers of the Americas migrated.

**Theory 1:** The Last Glacial Maximum of the Wisconsin glacial period occurred approximately 20,000-18,000 years ago (warm up). Extremely cold weather resulted in the formation of vast ice sheets across the Earth's northernmost and southernmost latitudes. Ice sheets formed, sea levels dropped worldwide.

The land beneath the Bering Strait was exposed. This is referred to as **Beringia.** This land bridge was a possible route by which homo sapiens crossed from Asia to the Americas.

SHOW VIDEO
THE LAND BRIDGE THEORY
5:33 MINS
ANOTHER THEORY

- **Theory 2:** Pacific models propose that people first reached the Americas via water travel, following coastlines from northeast Asia into the Americas. Coastlines are unusually productive environments because they provide humans with access to a diverse array of plants and animals from both terrestrial and marine ecosystems.

- Migrated following the coast of the beringea or small islands that were formed.
Coastal Route Theory: New research and studies have prompted some anthropologists and archaeologists to present the theory that people from Southeast Asia traveled by boat along the coastline and settled in the Western portion of North America and the Northwestern portion of South America. The theory also helps to explain how certain artifacts have been found so far from the Bering Strait region dating before and around the supposed time that humans first came into contact with the Americas via the Bering Land Bridge.

Map displaying the route that Southeast Asians and Polynesians could have taken to reach the Americas
FOLLOWING FOOD

**Paleo Indians (15000 – 7000 B.C.):**

they were of Asiatic origins and that they migrated to the Americas in pursuit of the large Pleistocene animals that they relied on for subsistence.

- From Alaska these early hunters spread to the south, moving into Canada, the United States and Mexico and eventually reaching South America by 10,000 B.C.
- They had a nomadic lifestyle and they left remains of their tools: wood, bone stone
- Their most diagnostic hunting implement was a fluted projectile point that is generally referred to as a Clovis point.
- Paleo-indian presence in Belize (mid 1980’s), when a farmer near Ladyville discovered the first fluted projectile point in the country. In the Toledo District another fragment of a similar spear point was found. Teeth of an extinct mastodon have been discovered in Bullet Tree Falls and simple stone tools associated with extinct horse remains have been recovered in a cave in the Cayo District.
Clovis hunters swept the continent

Earliest undisputed inhabitants of the Americas, the people known as Clovis descended from late Pleistocene hunters who moved south from Canada, probably through an ice-free corridor that had opened by 12,000 years ago. Skilled at taking mammoth, bison, and other Ice Age animals, they used distinctively fluted spearpoints recovered at sites throughout the U.S. Initial digging at the Richey-Roberts Clovis Cache has exposed the largest Clovis points yet found.
Settling Down

due to climate change

**Archaic period 7000 - 2000 BC:**

- The Pleistocene era came to an end and many of the large animals that once flourished in the Americas (mastodons, giant sloths, horses and camelids) began their decline to extinction.

- First archaic sites found in dry caves of Teotihuacan Valley Mexico
- Archaic people began to rely more and more on plants and smaller animals for food (invention of new tools).
- Collected and eat a variety of plants such as peppers, squash, avocado, chilli, amaranth (callaloo), Manioc and early forms of corn. Food was carried to their rock shelter campsites in bags that were woven from plant fibers.
  - Domestication of Maize- nixtamilization- the process where dried maize is cooked with white lime, a calcium mineral. The white lime breaks down the tough outer skin making the maize easier to grind but its real contribution lies in increasing the protein value of Maize.
- Tools used by archaic people: large stone bowls and pestles (similar to manos and mutates), and smaller, but wider, projectile points.
- Lowe Points- found at Lowe Ranch north of Ladyville.
- Colha was a stone tool factory (Orange Walk)
Archaic period (Mesoamerican)

http://archaeology.about.com/od/latinamerica/a/mesoamerican_timeline.htm says:
Archaic Period (7000-2500 BC): transition from hunter-gatherers to village life and agriculture by the end of this period. Smaller and more refined stone tools and reliance on marine resources (Coxcatlán, Guílá Naquitz, Gheo Shih, Chantuto, Santa Marta cave, Pulltrouser Swamp).

Wikipedia says:
During the Archaic Era agriculture was developed in the region and permanent villages were established. Late in this era, use of pottery and loom weaving became common, and class divisions began to appear. Many of the basic technologies of Mesoamerica in terms of stone-grinding, drilling, pottery etc. were established during this period.

Historytoday.com says:
A period of Mesoamerican civilization from about 7000 to 2000 BC, in which hunter-gatherer societies intensified food collection practices and modified plant habitats, domesticating several plant species, notably maize (by c.2700 BC). Population growth, the development of permanent villages, intensive farming, the use of ceramics and long-distance obsidian exchange are all evident in Mexico by the late 3rd millennium BC.

NichBelize.org says:
Sometime around 7000 B.C. most of the world began to experience changing climatic patterns. As the weather became wetter and warmer, the Pleistocene era came to an end and many of the large animals that once flourished in the Americas (mastodons, giant sloths, horses and camels) began their decline to extinction. These changes also had important effects on human populations. With the growing absence of large animals, these Archaic people began to rely more and more on plants and smaller animals for food. These changes led to the invention of new tools for use in the exploitation of different resources. Three of the most diagnostic implements used by the Archaic people of this time are large stone bowls and pestles, and smaller, but wider, projectile points. The stone bowls and pestles are similar to (but slightly smaller than) the manos and metates that were later used by the Maya for grinding and processing plant food. The new projectile or spear point (see Figure) looks somewhat like a fishtail and was used for hunting smaller Post-Pleistocene animals.

The best evidence for Archaic human activity in Mesoamerica was recovered by archaeologists working in the Tehuacan Valley of Mexico. They noted that after the end of the Pleistocene era, people began to collect and eat a variety of plants such as peppers, squash, avocado and early forms of corn. Much of this food was carried to their rockshelter campsites in bags that were woven from plant fibers. With the passage of time, many of the plants originally collected by these people became domesticated. Plant domestication eventually led to the establishment of the first permanent settlements.

Evidence for Archaic human activity in Belize is only slightly better than the preceding period. In most cases too, this evidence is limited to the diagnostic projectile points left behind by these nomadic people. The first of these artifacts were discovered in the 1980's near the Lowe Ranch to the north of Ladyville. Because of this archaeologists in Belize refer to them as Lowe points. Up until 1999 about twelve Lowe points had been reported in the Belize, Orange Walk and Corozal Districts. In 2000, three more points were discovered in the Cayo District - one in San Ignacio, another near Spanish Lookout and the third in the Roaring River area.
The ancient process of nixtamalization was first developed in Mesoamerica, where maize was originally cultivated. There is no precise date when the technology was developed, but the earliest evidence of nixtamalization is found in Guatemala's southern coast, with equipment dating from 1200–1500 BC.
ASSIGNMENT # 1 - MIGRATION

GO TO THIS SITE:

WWW.ScientificAmerican.com/article.cfm?id=Pringle-First-Americans-Trail-Interactive

CHOOSE ONE OF THE THEORIES ABOUT MIGRATION TO THE AMERICAS AND EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICE

MAKE SURE YOU RESEARCH AT LEAST ONE OTHER SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND GIVE THE SOURCE TO BACK UP YOUR POSITION.

**Literacy Goal:** Proficiency in these skills includes; collaboratively addressing problems through the appropriate use of technology, by finding, validating, synthesizing, contextualizing and leveraging relevant and appropriate information, and then communicating and publishing a solution and reflecting on that solution and the process of creating it.
Resources


