1. Pre-Colombian Society
   1. 14,000-12,000 BC (some argue even 40,000-20,000 BC) Asians from Mongolia/Russia migrated over **Bering Strait land bridge**
      1. Land bridge formed due to lower sea levels and higher ice percentage (mini ice age)
      2. Migrants were likely in pursuit of big game animals such as mammoths
         1. Development of new technologies:
            1. Better hunting tools/methods
            2. Better clothing made out of thick furs
      3. *Mystery*: Blood type “B” is predominant in Asia whereas blood type “A” and “O” are predominant in people of new world
         1. Did they really come from Northern Asia?
   2. General thoughts on Pre-Colombian society
      1. Population: 50-75 million
         1. Other projections: as low as 1.15 million as high as 112 million
         2. 10 million in North America alone
      2. Cultures: although originally small, nomadic tribes… profound culture developed primarily in central and south America due to good climate and vast resources
         1. “**Three Sisters**” : maize, beans, squash (predominant agricultural food groups)
   3. Large “Southern” Civilizations/Empires
      1. **Incas**:
         1. Located in modern Peru in Andes Mtns.
         2. Pop: 6 million
         3. No written language
         4. Unified under rule of “**Sapa Inca**” – Child of the Sun – believed to be the physical manifestation of Inti (Sun God)
         5. Cities: Machu Picchu and Cuzco
         6. **Achievements**:
            1. Complex political system and large network of roads and trade routes
            2. Advanced cities and terraced farms built into mountainside
      2. **Mayas**:
         1. Located in modern Mexico in Yucatan Peninsula
         2. Cities: Manapan
         3. **Achievements**:
            1. Spoken and written language systems
            2. Numerical system (similar to Arabic system and superior to Roman)
            3. Calendar system
            4. Advanced Agriculture
            5. Advanced architectural cities and large pyramids
      3. **Aztecs**:
         1. Located in modern Mexico city and surrounding area
         2. Cities: Tenochtitlan – had pop of over 100,000 in 1500AD (larger than any European city)
         3. **Achievements**:
            1. Warrior society that conquered many local native groups and dominated region
            2. Elaborate governmental, medical and educational systems
            3. Religious system based on human sacrifice
            4. Massive pyramids rivaling those in Egypt
   4. **Smaller “Northern” Civilizations**
      1. No empires, but still complex culture, society, and political systems developed
      2. Economies generally based on hunting, gathering, fishing, agriculture or combination of all
      3. **Eskimos**:
         1. Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and other Northern Regions
         2. Trained Dogs to pull sleds
         3. Developed snow shoes and thick coats made out of fur and seal hide
         4. Hunted fatty seal’s, moose, caribou for food
      4. **Pacific North West:**
         1. Located in modern Washington State – Oregon area
         2. Tribes: Chinook, Salishan, Makah
         3. Violent competition for natural resources
         4. Traded among one another
         5. Salmon fishing
            1. Salted fish provided food over winter
      5. **California**:
         1. Fishing, small game, gathering
      6. **Southwest:**
         1. Located in New Mexico – Arizona
         2. **Anasazi** “Ancient Ones” or “Basket Makers” – distant relatives of Navajo
            1. Others: Apache and Hopi
         3. Achievements:
            1. Developed irrigation systems in arid regions
            2. Created towns for central community life and culture/trade
         4. City: **Chaco Canyon**
            1. Stone and terraced structures (pueblos)
            2. Adobe-walled towns
            3. Cities carved into solid rock
      7. **Great Plains**
         1. Sedentary farming and large permanent settlements
         2. Tribes: Cheyenne and Lakota
         3. Eventually, buffalo hunting with introduction and domestication of European horse
      8. **Mississippi Valley**
         1. Located along the Mississippi river
         2. “Mound Builders” – built pyramid-like mounds
         3. City: **Cahokia** (modern St. Louis)
            1. Pop. of 40,000 at 1100 AD which rivaled London at the time
      9. **Eastern** 
         1. “Woodland Indians”
            1. Ex. Cherokees of Western North Carolina
         2. Greatest resources on the continent
         3. Farming, hunting, gathering, and fishing
         4. Substantial settlement and trading networks
      10. **Northeast**
          1. Agricultural societies that used **swidden** or “slash-and-burn” style agriculture
             1. Quickly exploited land then moved
   5. Native Society: General Achievements
      1. What Europeans got
         1. 27 state names
         2. 1000’s of rivers, lakes, mountains, cities, towns
         3. **Foods**:
            1. **Potatoes**, sweet potatoes, artichokes, squash, turkey, **tomatoes**, vanilla, cacao, coca, **tobacco**
         4. Innovations:
            1. Hammocks, toboggans, parkas, ponchos, snowshoes, moccasins, agricultural techniques
         5. Ideas:
            1. Confederacy?
      2. Culture
         1. Although small pop. in North America, there were 100’s of cultural and tribal groups and over 300 different languages
         2. Language:
            1. East of Mississippi three primary language groups persisted: **Algonquin** (Canada – Va), **Iroquois** (Illinois – Kentucky), and **Muskogean** (Southern States)

**Iroquois Confedration**: loose alliance of Iroquois speaking tribes who formed alliance to fight Algonquin people’s

Tribes: Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk

Known for longhouses and canoes made of birch

**Muskogean**: named the “Five Civilized Tribes” by Europeans because they had legal systems in place and generally accepted European customs

Tribes: Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, Seminoles, Cherokees

* + - * 1. Generally, alliances were weak because natives cared more for individual family or tribe rather than the “nation” of collective tribes (makes for easy European conquest)
    1. Truths
       1. **Truth 1:** Native Populations were vast: est. range between 50-75 million
       2. **Truth 2:** Native culture was diverse and advanced
          1. Variety of languages, traditions, religions
       3. **Truth 3:** Native capability was advanced
          1. Written language, art, architecture, stone works (pyramids), agriculture, technology
       4. **Truth 4:** Native economies were generally strong
          1. Evidence:

Native opulence with jewelry, art, gold, etc.

Some societies included vast trade networks

Creation of Empires which controlled large land areas

* + - 1. **Truth 5:** Natives were in relatively good health in comparison with Europeans
         1. This opened the door to disease
      2. **Truth 5:** Natives were NOT uncivilized
         1. Evidence:

Sedentary lifestyle, development of religion, customs, traditions, rituals, language (spoken and written), art, etc.

* + - * 1. **Anachronism**: a chronological inconsistency

Commonly cited inconsistencies:

Human Sacrifice = barbarism

Nude People = uncivilized

Piercings = uncivilized

Worshipped many God’s = uncivilized