

Beringia

- Theory – Possible explanation
- Beringia – Land bridge between Asia and North America (Russia and Alaska)
- Existed during the last Ice Age
- Ancient peoples followed large animals, such as Woolly Mammoths, into North America







Road to Civilization

Ancient Americans were nomads, following herds of large animals to hunt



Large animals began to die out



Began fishing and hunting smaller animals



Developed agriculture (farming)



People had to stay in one place to tend to farms; Groups of people began gathering together



Villages formed; people with shared religion, customs lived together

Mound Builders





- Mounds thought to be for burial of dead
- Jewelry, pottery found at mound sites

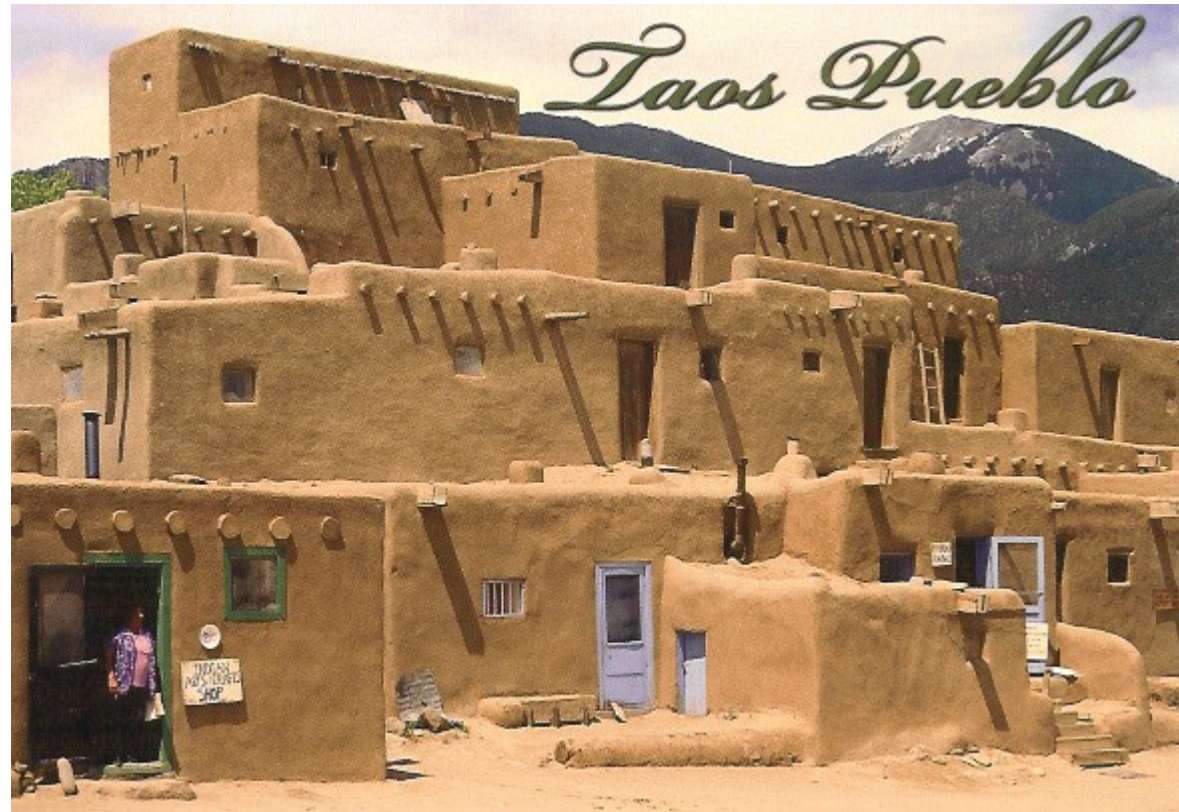


Ancient Pueblo Peoples

- Pueblo means “town”
- Buildings made of mud and stone
- Lived in American Southwest



MAP SKILL By 1400, about 10 million Native Americans lived in North America north of Mexico. Native Americans spoke at least 500 different languages and had their own cultures. Scholars have divided North America into the culture regions shown here. Name two groups that lived in the Southwest.



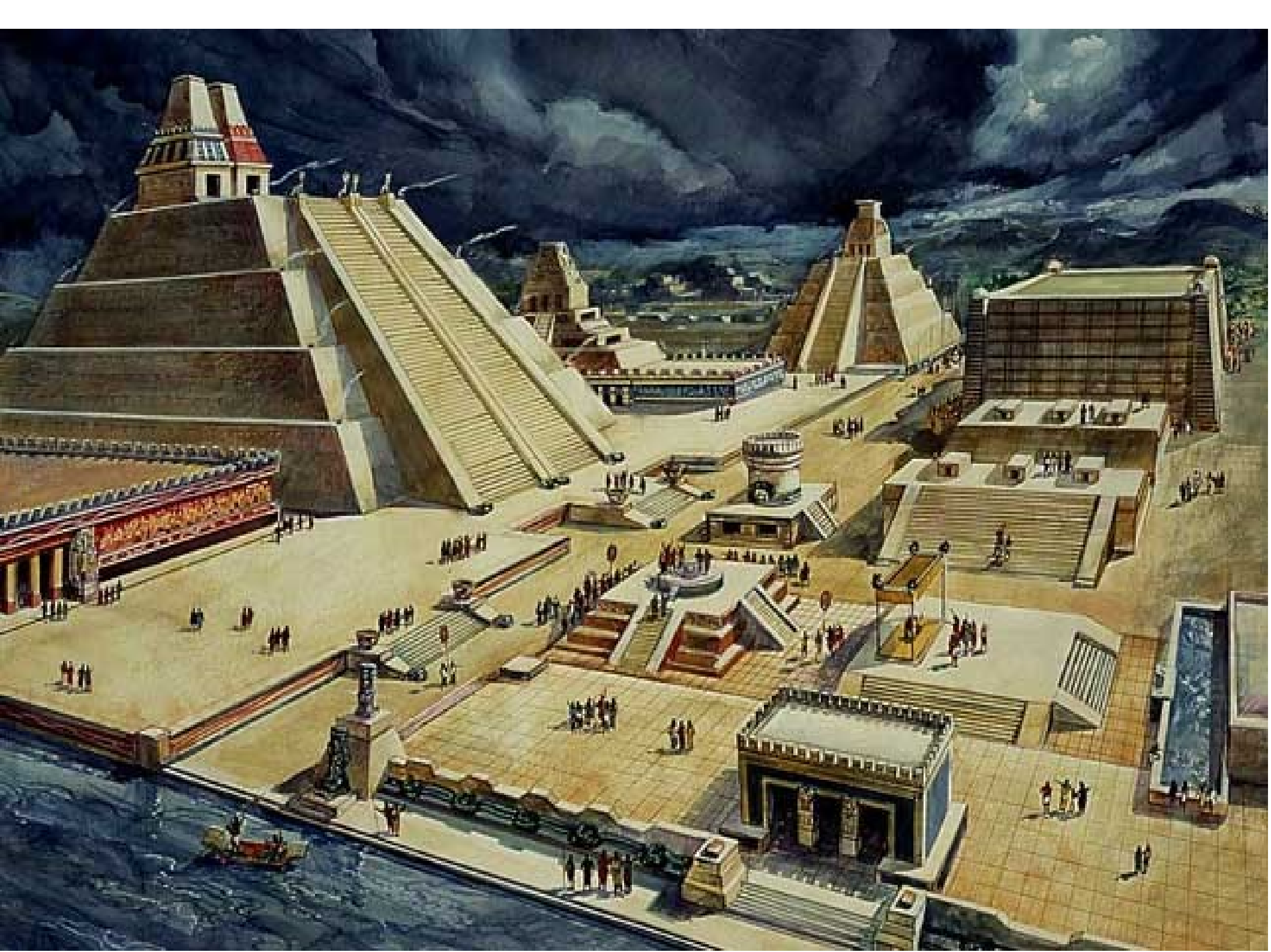
Pueblo Indians (Julian and Marie of
San Ildefonso) Making Pottery
Without Potter's Wheel



The Aztecs

- Ruled Central Mexico
- Capital city was Tenochtitlan, a city on an island in the middle of a lake. Tenochtitlan had hundreds of buildings, roads, and a population of 250,000 people
- Made their own calendar, built large temples
- Used cacao beans as money; grew corn





People of the Northwest

- Life influenced by mountains to east, ocean to the west
- Salmon and trees (wood) important resources
- Surplus of salmon eaten all year



- Carved logs into canoes called dugouts
- Built totem poles that told the history of families
- Held potlatches (large feasts) to celebrate important events



People of the Northwest – The Tlingit

- Built villages near coast and rivers
- Made clothing from shredded cedar bark
- Lived in clans – groups of related families



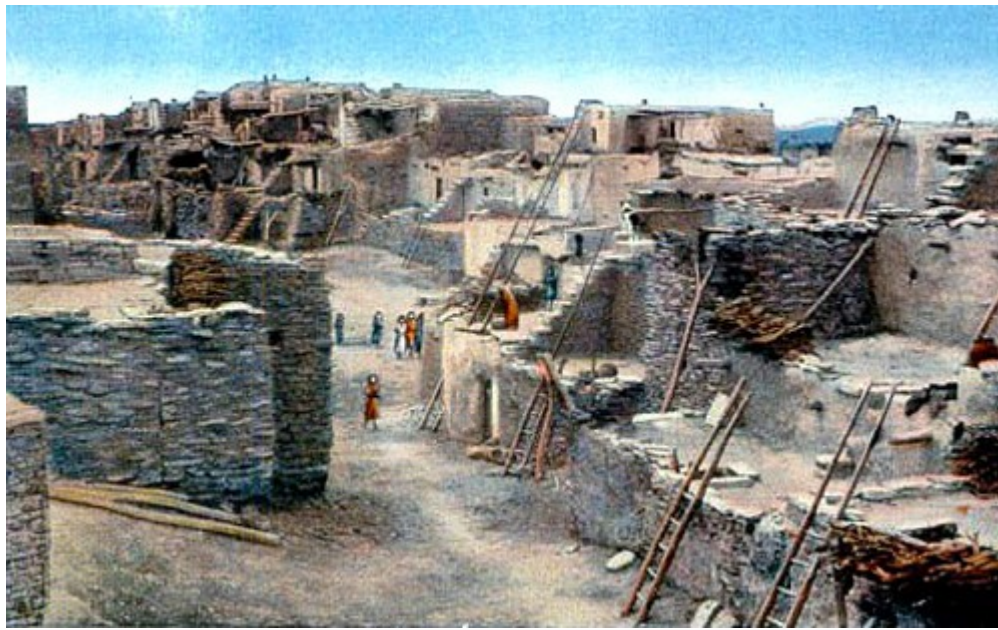
Peoples of the Southwest

- Lived in present-day Arizona and New Mexico
- Mostly low, flat desert that gets little rainfall
- Because of climate (hot, dry), people used sticks, stones, and clay (called adobe) to build houses
- Agriculture difficult (no rain) → Irrigation



Peoples of the Southwest – The Hopi

- Built pueblos with many rooms and stories
- Used irrigation to grow beans, squash, corn
- Corn was the staple crop (main food)
- Used pottery to store food and water
- Believed they were caretakers of the land



Eastern Plains Indians

- Enough rainfall to farm – grass grew up to 8 ft
- Lived in earth lodges
- Only left villages in summer/winter to hunt buffalo



Western Plains Indians

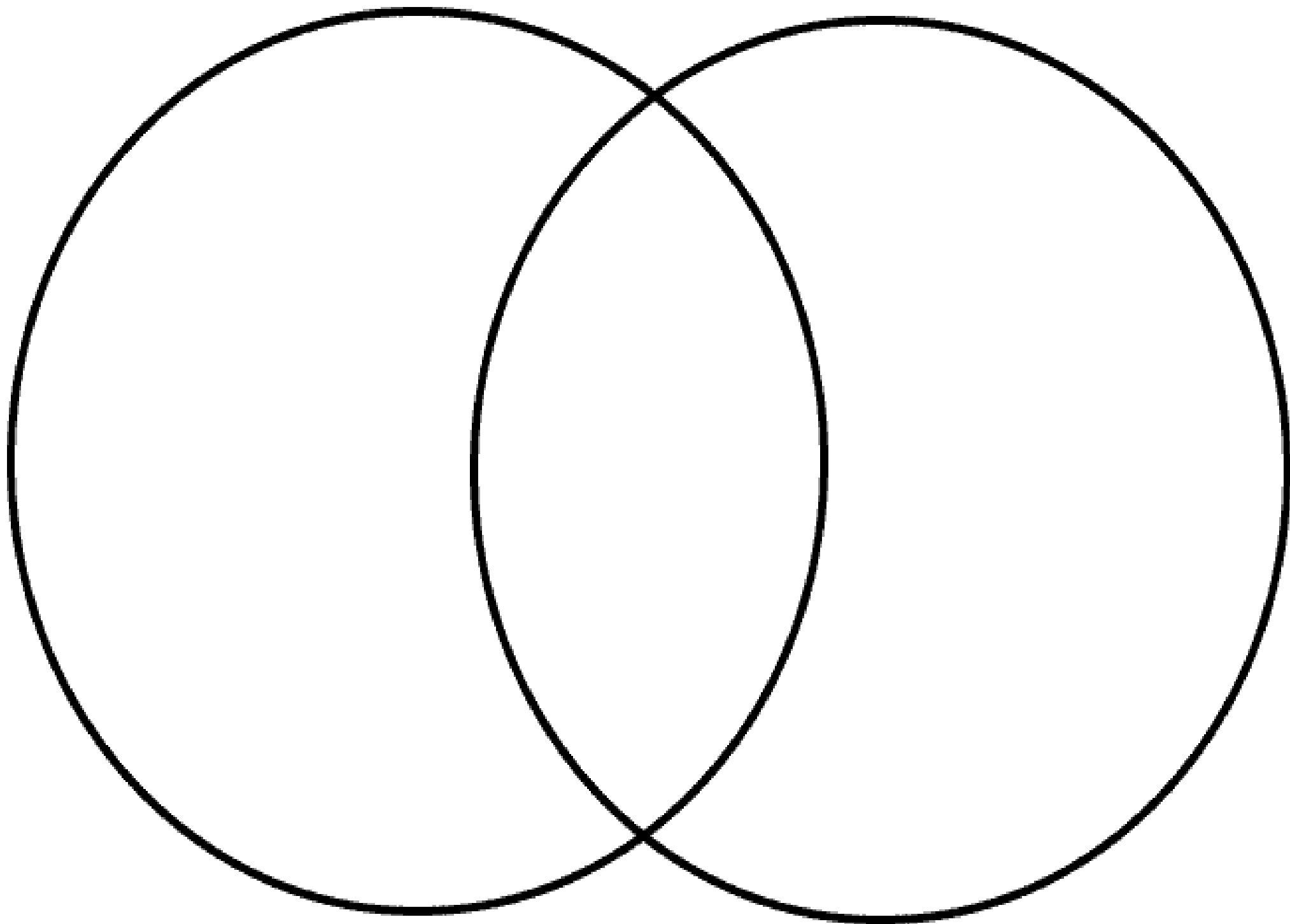
- Dry land made it difficult to farm
- Hunted buffalo – used every part of the animal
- Nomads – followed buffalo herds
- Used travois (sleds) to carry belongings
- Lived in teepees (easy to move)



Peoples of the Plains – The Comanche

- Horses from Spanish explorers in 1500s changed way of life for Indians on Great Plains
- Horses = highly valued
- Comanche lived from Wyoming to Oklahoma, Texas
- Fierce warriors on horseback
- Had government





Peoples of the East

- Eastern Woodlands – from Mississippi River to Atlantic Ocean
- Lots of rain, trees
- People hunted deer, rabbits, bears
- Staples crops known as “Three Sisters” – corn, beans, squash
- Homes and clothing made to fit climate



Longhouse – Large house made with wood poles and bark (NE)



Roundhouse – Used for dances and ceremonies (SE)



Peoples of the East – The Haudenosaunee

- Lived in present-day New York State
- Several tribes; Often fought with each other
- Joined in a confederation called the Haudenosaunee League (Iroquois League)
- Had government run by chiefs
- Lived in clans
- Traded (bartered) with other Woodland Indians

