Three Worlds Meet

Native Americans and Africans develop complex societies and cultures. Europeans explore and conquer parts of the New World and launch a massive slave trade.

Henry the Navigator, and Prince of Portugal. Art (about 1464).
Three Worlds Meet

SECTION 1  Peopling the Americas
SECTION 2  North American Societies Around 1492
SECTION 3  West African Societies Around 1492
SECTION 4  European Societies Around 1492
SECTION 5  Transatlantic Encounters
Section 1
Peopling the Americas
In ancient times, migrating peoples settle the Americas, where their descendants develop complex societies.
Ancient Peoples Come to the Americas

The First Americans
• 22,000 years ago hunters cross from Asia to Alaska over Beringia

Hunting and Gathering
• Inhabitants hunt large animals until climate warms
• 12,000 to 10,000 years ago hunt small game, gather nuts and berries

Agriculture Develops
• Planting of crops begins in central Mexico 10,000 to 5,000 years ago
• Some cultures remain nomadic—moving in search of food and water
Complex Societies Flourish in the Americas

Early Cultures of the Americas
• About 3,000 years ago, inhabitants begin forming large communities

Empires of Middle and South America
• The **Olmec** flourish 1200 to 400 B.C. along Gulf of Mexico
• A.D. 250 to 900, **Maya** culture thrives in Guatemala and Yucatán
• **Aztec** begin building civilization in the Valley of Mexico in 1200s
• **Inca** establish empire around A.D.1200 in western South America
• Cultures have cities or ceremonial centers; some have writing

Continued . . .
Complex Societies Flourish in the Americas

Ancient Desert Farmers
- About 3,000 years ago, groups begin growing crops in Southwest
- Groups establish civilizations, 300 B.C. to A.D. 1400
  - Hohokam settle in river valleys
  - Anasazi live in mesa tops, cliff sides, canyons

Mound Builders
- In East, Adena, Hopewell, Mississippian establish trading societies
- Adena, Hopewell build huge burial and animal-shaped mounds
- Mississippian people build giant pyramidal mounds
Anasazi Dwellings

Mound builders
Section 2
North American Societies
Around 1492
The varied landscapes of North America encourage the diversity of Native American cultures.
Native Americans Live in Diverse Societies

California
• **Kashaya Pomo** hunt waterfowl along northwest coast
• Yurok, Hupa gather acorns in forests, fish in mountain streams

Northwest Coast
• Large communities live along streams, seashore, and in forests
• **Kwakiutl**, Nootka, Haida gather shellfish, hunt whales, otters, seals
• Place totems, symbols of ancestral spirits, on masks, boats, poles
• Potlatches—families give away possessions in special ceremonies
**Southwest**
- By 1300, **Pueblo** settle near waterways, build multistory houses
- Hopi, Acoma live near cliffs, develop irrigation systems
- Grow corn, beans, squash; build kivas, underground ceremonial rooms

**Eastern Woodlands**
- Tribes like **Iroquois** build villages in forests; farm, hunt, gather
- People develop woodworking tools, craft objects from wood
- Northeast rely on animals for food, clothing; Southeast, on farming
Native Americans Share Cultural Patterns

Trading Networks
• Trade one of biggest factors in bringing tribes into contact
• Groups specialize in processing or making different products
• Traders on transcontinental network trade items from far-off places

Land Use
• Native Americans consider land the source of life, not to be sold
• Disturb it only for important reasons, like food gathering, farming

Continued . . .
Religious Beliefs
• People believe nature is filled with spirits; ancestors guide people
• Some cultures believe in one supreme being

Social Organization
• Bonds of kinship, ties among relatives, ensure customs are passed on
• Division of labor—tasks by gender, age, status—creates social order
• Groups organized by families; some in clans with common ancestor
Primary

A primary source is a document or physical object created during the time under study.

Examples:
- Eyewitness accounts
- Diaries, speeches, letters, interviews, news films, poetry, drama, novels, music, art, pottery, furniture, clothing

Secondary

A secondary source interprets and analyzes primary sources and are at least one step removed from the time under study.

Examples:
- Textbooks, magazine articles, historical commentaries, encyclopedias, wikipedia
Section 3
West African Societies Around 1492
West Africa in the 1400s is home to a variety of peoples and cultures.
A Personal Voice  Leo Africanus

"Here are many shops of . . . merchants, and especially such as weave linen and cotton cloth. And hither do the Barbary [North African] merchants bring cloth of Europe. . . . Here are great store of doctors, judges, priests, and other learned men, that are bountifully maintained at the king's cost and charges, and hither are brought divers manuscripts or written books out of Barbary, which are sold for more money than any other merchandise."

—The History and Description of Africa Done into English by John Pory
West Africa Connects with the Wider World

The Sahara Highway
- Trading network connects West Africa to North Africa, Europe, Asia
- Traders bring Islam; by 1200s court religion of Mali, later Songhai

The Portuguese Arrive
- By 1470s, Portuguese have coastal outpost near Akan goldfields
- Direct trade creates closer relations with Europe
- Portuguese begin European trade in West African slaves
- First slaves work on plantation—large farm with single crop
Three African Kingdoms Flourish

**Songhai**
- In mid-1400s, **Songhai** controls Sahara trade; gains wealth, power
- Sunni Ali rules 1464–1492, conquers largest empire in area’s history
- Askia Muhammad is master organizer, devout Muslim, scholar
- Timbuktu again becomes great center of Islamic learning
- Songhai control **savanna** (dry grasslands) but not forest area
- Other kingdoms thrive in coastal rain forest

*Continued...*
continued Three African Kingdoms Flourish

**Benin**
- Forest kingdoms trade with Songhai, North Africa, Portugal
- **Benin** dominates large area around Niger Delta
- Oba, or ruler, controls trade, district chiefs, metal work

**Kongo**
- **Kongo**—many small kingdoms in rain forest, lower Zaire (Congo) River
- Manikongo, or ruler, oversees empire of over 4 million people
- Kongo system of government very similar to that of European nations
West African Culture

Family and Government
- **Lineage**—common descent—decides loyalty, inheritance, marriage
- Oldest relative controls family, represents family in group councils
- Group shares language, history, often territory; has one chief

Religion
- All things have spirits; ancestor spirits visit elders in dreams
- Most cultures believe in single creator; spirits do his work
- Christian, Muslim rule of not worshipping spirits source of conflict

Continued . . .
continued West African Culture

Livelihood
• Make living from farming, herding, hunting, fishing, mining, trading
• Land owned by family or village; individuals farm plots

Use of Slave Labor
• Slaves are lowest social group; slavery not inherited or permanent
• Slaves freed through adoption by owners, marriage, other means
Section 4

European Societies Around 1492

Political, economic, and intellectual developments in western Europe in the 1400s lead to the Age of Exploration.
The European Social Order

The Social Hierarchy
• Communities are organized according to social hierarchy or rank
• Monarchs, nobles have wealth, power; at top of hierarchy
• Artisans, merchants have social mobility
• Majority are peasants, at bottom of hierarchy

The Family in Society
• Life centers on nuclear family—parents and their children
• Men do field work, herd; women do child care, house work, field work

European Societies Around 1492
Pope / Church

Monarch

Nobles

Knights | Vassals

Merchants | Farmers | Craftsmen

Peasants | Serfs
Christianity Shapes the European Outlook

Religion
- Roman Catholic Church dominates; pope, bishops make decisions
- Parish priests interpret scriptures, administer sacraments

Crusading Christianity
- Crusades—Christian military expeditions to take Holy Land, 1096–1270
- Isabella, Ferdinand end *reconquista* or reconquest of Spain, 1492

Decline in Church Authority
- Reformation—disputes over church practices, authority in the 1500s
- Europe divided between Catholicism and Protestantism
Changes Come to Europe

European Situation in 1400s
• Recovery from natural disasters, plague, war; millions die

The Growth of Commerce and Population
• Italian city-states profit from trade with Asia, Middle East
• Population rebounds: stimulates commerce, growth of towns
• Urban middle class gains political power

Continued . . .
continued Changes Come to Europe

The Rise of Nations
- Monarchs collect new taxes, raise armies, maintain bureaucracies
- Merchants accept taxes in exchange for protection, expanded trade
- Major European powers emerge: Portugal, Spain, France, England

The Renaissance
- Renaissance starts in Italy—interest in world, human achievement
- Investigate physical world; study arts, classics
Europe Enters a New Age of Expansion

Overland Travel to Asia
• Expense, danger of journeys lead to search for alternative route

Sailing Technology
• Navigating instruments, new sailing technology promote exploration

Portugal Takes the Lead
• Prince Henry of Portugal called “Henry the Navigator”
  - founds sailing school
  - sends Portuguese ships to explore west coast of Africa
• Traders sail around Africa via Indian Ocean; increase profit
The Curious Engineer
Sea Navigation
Section 5
Transatlantic Encounters

Columbus’s voyages set off a chain of events that bring together the peoples of Europe, Africa, and the Americas.
Columbus Crosses the Atlantic

First Encounters
• In 1492, Christopher Columbus attempts to reach Asia by sailing west
• Meets Taino—natives of Caribbean; renames their island San Salvador

Gold, Land, and Religion
• Columbus searches for gold, claims lands for Spain, plants crosses
• Explores small islands and coastlines of Cuba, Hispaniola
Spanish Footholds

- Columbus leads 3 more voyages; takes soldiers, priests, colonists
- Spanish and others first occupy Caribbean island, then mainland
The Impact on Native Americans

Methods of Colonization
- **Colonization**—establishing and controlling distant settlements
- Europeans force locals to work, dominate with sophisticated weapons

Resistance and Conquest
- In the 1490s, Spanish put down rebellions on different islands

Disease Ravages the Native Americans
- Native Americans have no natural immunity to European diseases
- Contagious diseases kill hundreds of thousands
The Slave Trade Begins

A New Slave Labor Force
- As natives die of disease, Africans brought to work in colonies
- Demand for workers grows, price of slaves rises
- Slave trade becomes profitable; more Europeans join slave trade

African Losses
- African societies devastated: millions of people taken from Africa
The Impact on Europeans

The Columbian Exchange

- Thousands of Europeans voluntarily migrate to America
- **Columbian Exchange**: transfer of plants, animals between hemispheres

National Rivalries

- 1494 **Treaty of Tordesillas** divides Western Hemisphere:
  - lands west of imaginary line, most of Americas, belong to Spain
  - lands east of line, including Brazil, belong to Portugal
- Treaty unenforceable; English, Dutch, French colonize Americas
A New Society is Born

Three Cultures Affect One Another

- Columbus returns to Spain (1504), disappointed did not find China
- People transformed as unfamiliar customs come together
- Impossible to impose European ways on others—blended society emerges
This is the end of the chapter presentation of lecture notes. Click the HOME or EXIT button.