

Native American Societies Before European Contact

UNIT 1 · PERIOD 1: EARLY ENCOUNTERS IN THE AMERICAS (1491-1607) · LESSON 2 · STUDENT HANDOUT

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did the natural environment shape the economies, settlement patterns, and social structures of the diverse Native American societies of North America before European contact?

DO NOW · 5 MINUTES

Cabeza de Vaca, shipwrecked and traveling through the interior in the 1530s, described peoples who followed the great herds of "cows" (bison) and others on the coast whose "lodges are made of matting and built on oyster shells." In 2-3 sentences, explain what these two different ways of living suggest about how environment shaped Native societies. Why would coastal and inland peoples live so differently?

GUIDED NOTES · FIVE KEYS TO NATIVE AMERICAN DIVERSITY

1 · Southwestern Farming Peoples

2 · Mississippian Culture

3 · Cahokia

4 · Potlatch

5 · Kinship

ONE CONTINENT, MANY WORLDS

The maize revolution and the Southwest: _____

Mound-builders and Eastern Woodlands peoples: _____

Plains, plateau, and the abundant coasts: _____

Close Read & Apply

UNIT 1 · LESSON 2 · THE JOURNEY OF ALVAR NUÑEZ CABEZA DE VACA (ON THE "COWS" AND THE PEOPLES OF THE INTERIOR)

CLOSE READ · THE JOURNEY OF ALVAR NUÑEZ CABEZA DE VACA (ON THE "COWS" AND THE PEOPLES OF THE INTERIOR)

Here also they come up with cows; I have seen them thrice and have eaten their meat. They appear to me of the size of those in Spain. Their horns are small, like those of the Moorish cattle; the hair is very long, like fine wool and like a peajacket... Of the small hides the Indians make blankets to cover themselves with, and of the taller ones they make shoes and targets. These cows come from the north, across the country further on, to the coast of Florida, and are found all over the land for over four hundred leagues.

ÁLVAR NUÑEZ CABEZA DE VACA, THE JOURNEY OF ALVAR NUÑEZ CABEZA DE VACA, TRANS. FANNY BANDELIER · 1905 (EVENTS OF 1528-1536)

Annotate as you read: underline "cows" and identify the animal · box "the size of those in Spain" and "Moorish cattle" · star how the hides are used · circle every comparison drawn to Europe.

ANALYZE: COMPLETE EACH MOVE

1. Sourcing: _____
2. Context: _____
3. Claim: _____
4. Significance: _____

APPLY IT · CONCEPT-APPLICATION FRQ

Answer all parts. (a) Identify ONE Native American society or region and briefly describe how its people used their natural environment before European contact. (b) Explain how that environment shaped the society's economy OR social structure. (c) Explain ONE way the diversity of Native American societies challenges the idea that North America was "empty" or "primitive" before 1492.

EXIT TICKET

In one sentence, explain how environment shaped ONE Native American society before 1492.
