

Unit 3

Maya, Aztec, Anasazi, and Mound Builders

Maya notes Lesson 3-1

- The Maya's origin story begins with corn. Maize = Maya = Corn
- They settled down in MesoAmerica (Central / Middle America) around 200 A.D. and built cities until 909 A.D.
- They carved cities out of the jungles, and changed their environments by cutting "steps" or terraces out of hills and filling in swamps with dirt to make farmland.
- **They "terraformed" the land by cutting terraces (steps out of the hills) and filling in lakes and ponds with dirt.**
- Their system of math & science was very complex, they determined the length of one year to 365 days (6 hours off). They "invented" the number zero!
- Their language was written down as pictographs using symbols and pictures for their writing.
- They did some human sacrifice, but mostly their priests blood let in order to appease the gods.

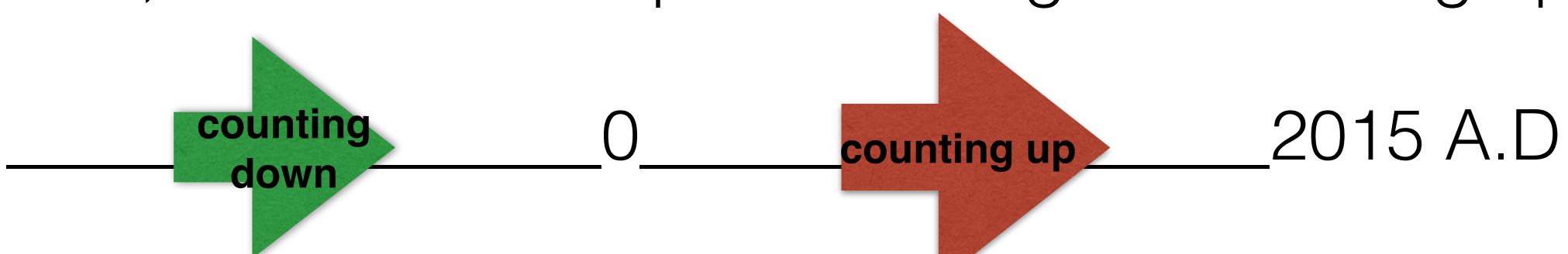
Lesson 3-2 notes

- 1.) In the Valley of Mexico ~ 1100 A.D. Aztec people settled down from hunting and gathering.
- 2.) Legends told they would settle down in the land of the Prickly Pear Cactus where a Quetzal bird was perched.
- 3.) Around 1325 they stopped at Lake Texcoco and started the city of Tenochtitlán.
- 4.) They expanded the island in the middle of Lake Texcoco by building rafts, called chinampas, to make floating gardens.

- 5.) Living on an island provided for defense and fresh water to drink
- 6.) In the 1400's the Aztec regularly took tribute from their empire getting minerals, food, furs, animals, slaves, and sacrifices.
- 7.) Most kids went to school, and the culture promoted being aggressive, especially in battle (they wanted prisoners).
- 8.) This is key later as those who were bullied get revenge!
- 9.) Aztecs believed that if they beat you, they OWNED YOU.

- 10.) Tenochtitlan had over 200,000 people who lived there, it even had a zoo!
- 11.) The Aztec market was the "hub" (center) of society with temples nearby and lots of diverse foods, and items to buy / sell.
- 12.) Aztecs performed HUMAN SACRIFICES. They believed human blood was required to make the sun happy and come back up tomorrow!
- 13.) In the 1500's the Spanish visit the Aztecs and conquer them.
- 14.) The Aztecs were a people of GREAT BEAUTY (art, sports, music, culture, and architecture) along with GREAT CRUELTY (human sacrifice and slavery).

3 Study Skills - Timelines

- 10 years = 1 decade
- 100 years = 1 century
- 1000 years = 1 millennia or millennium
- Think of a number line - B.C. are "negative integers" counting "down" to ZERO, while A.D. are "positive integers" counting up.
- 15,000 B.C.  2015 A.D.
- When trying to figure out the century, round to the nearest hundreds & thousands place, drop the ZEROS, and add 1. (example 1783 -> 1700, drop the zeroes = 17 + 1 = 18th century).

<u>Years</u>	<i>Century</i>
1-99	1st
100 - 199	2nd
200 - 299	3rd
300 - 399	4th
400 - 499	5th
500 - 599	6th
600 - 699	7th
700 - 799	8th
800 - 899	9th
900 - 999	10th
1000 - 1099	11th
1100 - 1199	12th
1200 - 1299	13th
1300 - 1399	14th
1400 - 1499	15th
1500 - 1599	16th
1600 - 1699	17th
1700 - 1799	18th
1800 - 1899	19th
1900 - 1999	20th
2000 - 2099	21st

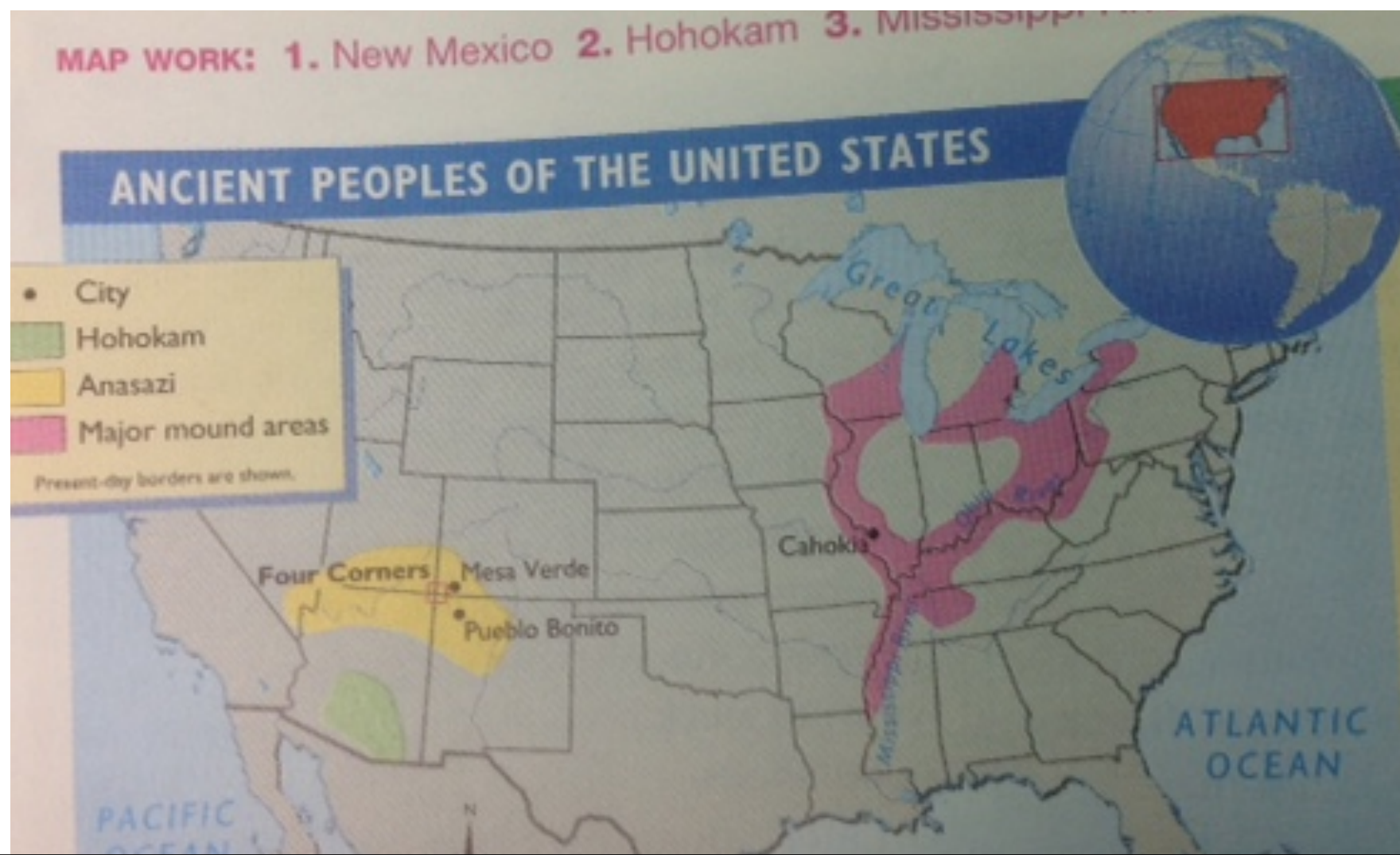
Lesson 3-3 Notes

Anasazi & Mound Builders

- 1.) Mound Builders lived near the Mississippi & Ohio River valleys in HUMID America (>20" precipitation annually).
- 2.) They built huge earthen mounds AT FIRST to bury their dead, but LATER, MAINLY for religious purposes.
- 3.) The Great Serpent Mound in Cincinnati, Ohio, is over 1000 feet long and 100 feet high, and completely BUILT BY HAND!
- 4.) They used the river network to TRADE with other tribes, getting items that were SCARCE (like wampum / shells.)

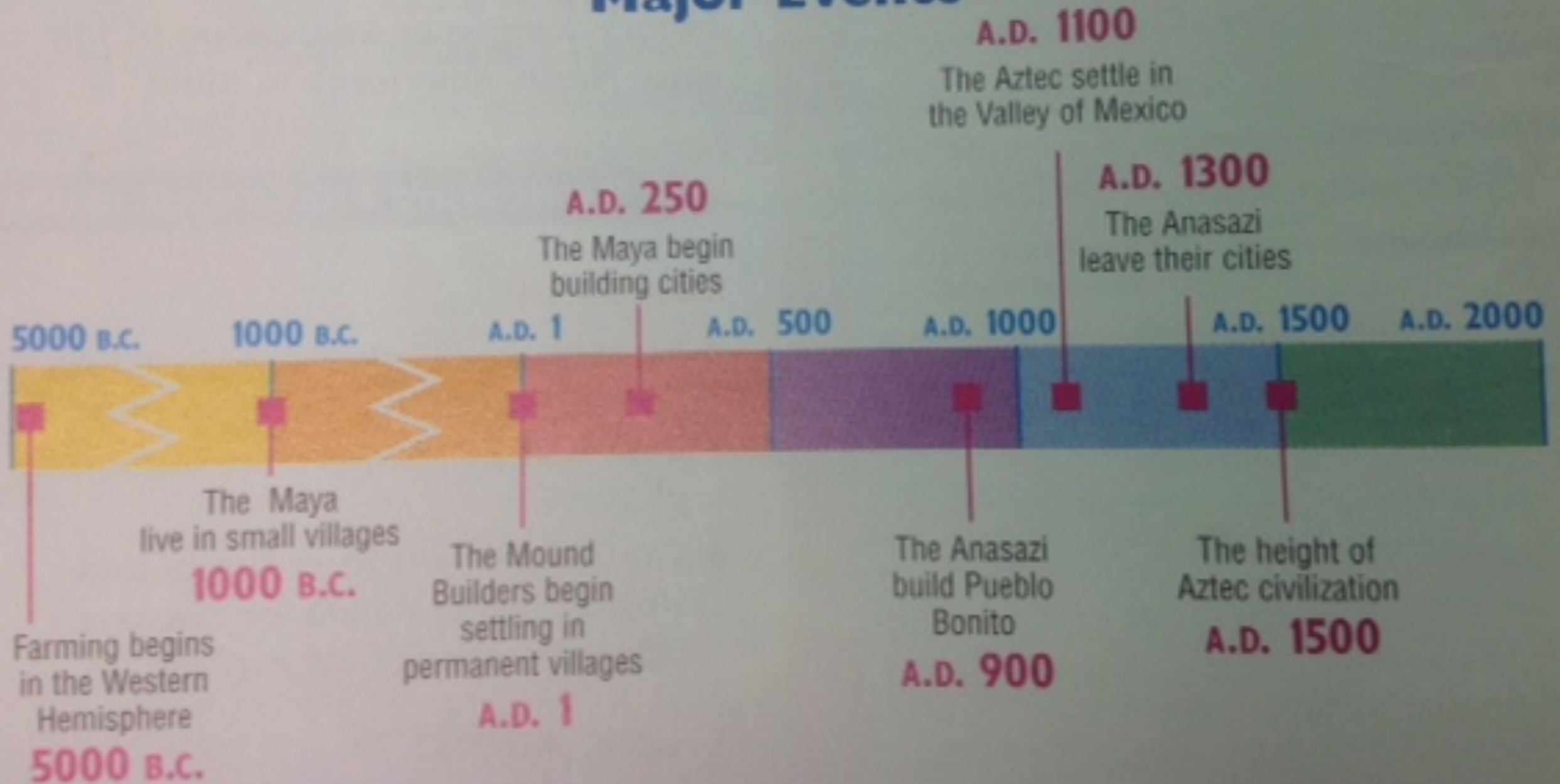
- 5.) The Mound Builders had plenty of food sources (fishing, hunting, agriculture), and were believed to have also built large pyramid type structures.
- 6.) The Anasazi lived in ARID America (West of the Mississippi River). They had annually <20" precipitation.
- 7.) Water was SCARCE, and limited their movement, agriculture, and growth as a civilization.
- 8.) The Anasazi did create canals & aqueducts to bring water to their fields, but still couldn't control the AMOUNT of precipitation.
- 9.) They built cities out of cliff faces (Mesa Verde) and on top of mesas (Pueblo Bonito) to protect them from the elements and their enemies.

- 10.) Archaeologists DON'T KNOW why they left their cities, but believe it was due to conflicts or lack of water. The Anasazi's descendants are believed to be local tribes like the Hopi and Pueblo.
- 11.) Ancient Peoples travelled from Africa to Asia, then to North America & South America by travelling across the Bering Straits while the ice was frozen. They followed food sources.



Chapter 3 Review Resources

Major Events



Ch 3 Graphic Organizer

THE FIRST AMERICANS	IMPORTANT DATES	TYPES OF BUILDINGS	WAYS OF FARMING
Maya	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A.D. 250 Begin building cities• A.D. 909 Last monuments built	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monuments• Stone temples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terrace farming• Raised islands
Aztec	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A.D. 1100s Valley of Mexico settled• A.D. 1500 Height of Aztec civilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Palaces• Temples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Floating gardens"
Anasazi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A.D. 900 Pueblo Bonito built• A.D. 1300 Anasazi leave their cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kivas• Apartment-style villages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irrigation