REVIEW QUESTIONS

SECTION 1 (pages 211–215)

Hunters and Farmers in the Americas

11. How do archaeologists know that the first Americans lived as hunters?

12. Why was corn such an important food crop to the people of Mexico and Central America?

13. What were the main differences between hunter-gatherer societies and those based primarily on agriculture?

SECTION 2 (pages 216–220)

Early Mesoamerican Civilizations

14. Where did the Olmec, the Americas’ first known civilization, arise?

15. How did the Olmec’s location contribute to the development of their civilization?

16. How did the Olmec influence the Zapotec civilization?

17. How do archaeologists know that the Zapotec city of Monte Albán was more than just a ceremonial center?

SECTION 3 (pages 221–223)

Early Civilizations of the Andes

18. In what ways did the Chavín influence other peoples of the Andes region?

19. What do scholars believe the Nazca Lines represented?

20. How were the Nazca and Moche able to develop productive farmland?

GRTTERMS & NAMES

Briefly explain the importance of each of the following to the early peoples and civilizations of the Americas.

1. Beringia
2. Ice Age
3. maize
4. Mesoamerica
5. Olmec
6. Zapotec
7. Monte Albán
8. Chavin
9. Nazca
10. Moche

On page 210 you examined ways to kill the mastodon and discussed the difficulties of living in a hunter-gatherer society. Now that you have read the chapter, discuss why the early Americans moved from a hunting to a farming existence. In what ways was food gathering easier in an agricultural society?

The Americas: A Separate World

The Earliest Americans

• Hunted big game and later fished and gathered berries and plants
• Lived in small groups, as they had to move continually in search of food
• Eventually developed farming and settled down into large communities
• Developed various new skills, including arts and crafts, architecture, and social and political organization
• Gradually forged more complex societies

Early South American Societies

The Chavin
• Established powerful religious worship centers
• Created influential artistic styles

The Nazca and Moche
• Developed extensive irrigation systems for farming
• Crafted intricate ceramics and textiles and other decorative art

Early Mesoamerican Societies

The Olmec
• Designed and built pyramids, plazas, and monumental sculptures
• Developed ceremonial centers, ritual ball games, and a ruling class
• Directed a large trade network throughout Mesoamerica

The Zapotec
• Built a magnificent urban center at Monte Albán
• Developed early forms of hieroglyphic writing and a calendar system
CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

1. LIVING HISTORY: Unit Portfolio Project

**THEME: POWER AND AUTHORITY**

Your unit portfolio project focuses on the growth and use of power and authority in ancient history. (See page 107.) For Chapter 9 you might use one of the following ideas to add to your portfolio.

- Write a piece of historical fiction about an early American in which you describe how the first ruler gained power or how some people got rich.
- With a partner, design and prepare a time capsule that members of one of the first civilizations might have created to preserve the memory of their powerful and successful society.
- Speculate about why the Olmec or another civilization declined. Then draw a picture showing a key aspect of that decline. Include a caption.

2. CONNECT TO TODAY: Cooperative Learning

**THEME: CULTURAL INTERACTION**

One way that a culture’s influence spread was by direct contact between people. Members of advanced civilizations, especially traders, carried their influential ideas with them as they traveled. Today, cultural influence is still spread in a similar way.

Work with a team to create and role-play two distinct meetings. In the first meeting, a trader from an ancient American civilization shares ideas and descriptions of his or her society with a farmer from a distant settlement. In the second meeting, an American salesperson from today shares similar information with a farmer in a distant land.

- Decide exactly what information you want the person from each of the dominant cultures to pass on.
- Establish a set of specific questions that the curious farmers will ask in order to draw out information about each culture.

3. INTERPRETING A TIME LINE

Revisit the time line on pages 106–107. Look above the Chapter 9 time line. Write about three other events that are happening in the world at this time.

CRITICAL THINKING

1. STAGES TO CIVILIZATION

The early Americans’ way of life developed through several stages, starting with hunting. Use a sequence graphic like the one below to show the stages of this development up to and including the time of the first civilizations.

2. CHALLENGING LOCATIONS

**THEME: INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT**

What unique environmental challenges did the early Mesoamerican and South American peoples face as they built thriving civilizations?

3. EARLY WAYS OF LIFE

Would you rather have lived in a hunting society or a settled farming society? Explain your answer.

4. ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

In his article “The Chavín Cult,” historian Brian Fagan describes the mysterious shrine of Chavin de Huantar.

**A VOICE ABOUT THE PAST**

Its U-shaped temple opens east toward the nearby Mosna River and the rising sun. The sacred precinct faces away from the nearby prehistoric settlement, presenting a high, almost menacing, wall to the outside world. The entire effect is one of mystery and hidden power. . . . Worshippers entered the sacred precincts by a roundabout route, passing along the temple pyramid to the river, then up some low terraces that led into the heart of the shrine. Here they found themselves in a sacred landscape set against a backdrop of mountains. Ahead of them lay the hidden place where the axis of the world passed from the sky into the underworld, an oracle [a place for predicting the future] famous for miles around.

Brian Fagan, quoted in The Peru Reader

- How might visitors have felt upon entering this shrine for the first time? Why?
- Do you think the mystery of this place helped spread the Chavin culture’s influence? Explain.

FOCUS ON GEOGRAPHY

Notice the location of the early Mesoamerican and South American civilizations.

- How many miles apart by land do they appear to be?
- What geographic factors would have made interaction between the two regions difficult?

Connect to History

Based on the map, why do you think it took so many thousands of years to travel from the land bridge in upper North America to the southern tip of South America?