

# 1.2 Native American Societies Before European Contact

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: 12 marks

## Objective

Build the skills to explain **regional diversity** 区域差异 before 1492.

You must be able to:

- state what maize cultivation supported
- match each region to the way of life the CED gives
- explain why environment does not simply determine society
- avoid describing pre-contact America as one society

## 1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

### ■ Maize

The spread of maize cultivation from present-day Mexico northward into the present-day American Southwest and beyond supported economic development, settlement, advanced irrigation, and social diversification. Four consequences from one crop.

### ■ Four regions

**Great Basin and western Great Plains:** aridity and grassland → largely mobile lifestyles. **Northeast, Mississippi River Valley, Atlantic seaboard:** mixed agricultural and hunter-gatherer economies favouring permanent villages. **Northwest and present-day California:** hunting and gathering, with settled communities in some areas supported by ocean resources.

### ■ Not determinism

The CED says societies **responded** and **developed**. Two societies in similar environments could respond differently, so environment sets the problem and does not dictate the answer.

### ■ Not one society

Four regions, four ways of life, in one CED subtopic. Writing about "Native Americans" as a single society contradicts the source before the answer begins.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** State the four consequences maize cultivation supported. [2]

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**2.2** Match two regions to their ways of life. [2]

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**2.3** Environment is not destiny.

(a) State the CED's verbs. [1]

(b) Explain why writing about "Native Americans" as one society fails. [2]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** Mobile lifestyles developed in response to [1]

- **A** the aridity of the Great Basin and the grasslands of the Great Plains
- **B** ocean resources
- **C** maize irrigation
- **D** permanent villages

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**3.2** Settled communities supported by ocean resources developed in [1]

- **A** the Northwest and present-day California
- **B** the Great Basin
- **C** the Southwest only
- **D** the Mississippi Valley

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**3.3** Two societies in similar environments organise themselves differently.

(a) State what this shows. [1]

(b) Explain the CED's position on environment.

[2]

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#### 4 Go further

- work through the **1.2 Native American Societies Before European Contact** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 1: 1491-1607** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

## Solutions

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**2.1** economic development; settlement; advanced irrigation; social diversification.

**2.2** any two matched correctly, e.g. Great Basin —mobile lifestyles; Northeast —mixed economies with permanent villages.

**2.3** (a) responded and developed. (b) the CED gives four distinct regional ways of life, so a single description contradicts the source.

**3.1 A.** aridity and grassland.

**3.2 A.** the Northwest and California.

**3.3** (a) that environment does not determine social organisation. (b) the CED says societies responded to and developed within their environments, so the environment sets the problem without dictating the answer.