

1.2 Native American Societies Before European Contact

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS maize 玉米 • mobile lifestyles 流动性生活方式 • advanced irrigation 先进灌溉
• mixed agricultural and hunter-gatherer economies 农业与狩猎采集混合经济
• regional diversity 区域差异

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

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

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

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]

3 Exam-style questions

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

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]

Solutions

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.