

# 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

B

C

D

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

B

C

D

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

**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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