

**PRE-COLUMBIAN INDIAN CIVILIZATIONS
& EUROPEAN COLONIZATION**

THREE MAJOR ERAS

- Paleo-Indian – arrival until around 500 to 3000 BCE
- Meso-Indian (Archaic) – until 1000 BCE
- Post Archaic – until today, but subdivided into three smaller eras: Formative, Classic, & Post-Classic

PALEO-INDIAN

- Gene studies and language analysis each support the idea that there were three major migrations or original cultural groups, according to your position on the origins debate
- Native Americans, genetically speaking, are all descended from a group of around 250 people.
- The later migrations contribute very little to the genetic makeup, and only in Northern Canada and Alaska.

PALEO-INDIAN

- Dates of the earliest settlements are all over the place and heavily contested.
- The two earliest settlements mostly agreed upon are the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter in Pennsylvania (13,000-19,000 BP) and Monte Verde (14,500 BP) in Chile

MESO-INDIAN/ARCHAIC

- Moundbuilding Cultures from the Great Plains to the east
- Sedentary agriculturalists (Maize)
- Stratified societies
- Sophisticated art, pottery, and textile work

MESO-INDIAN/ARCHAIC

- Different eras of moundbuilding in different areas of the Midwest and East
- Some earlier mounds were used as burial sites
- Later Northeastern cultures were more artistic and symbolic with their earthworks
- The moundbuilding culture seems to have originated in the southern US near the Mississippi Delta

WATSON BRAKE

- 5400 BP - Louisiana
- Aligned with solstices
- Central area cleared and flattened
- Home structures on the mounds



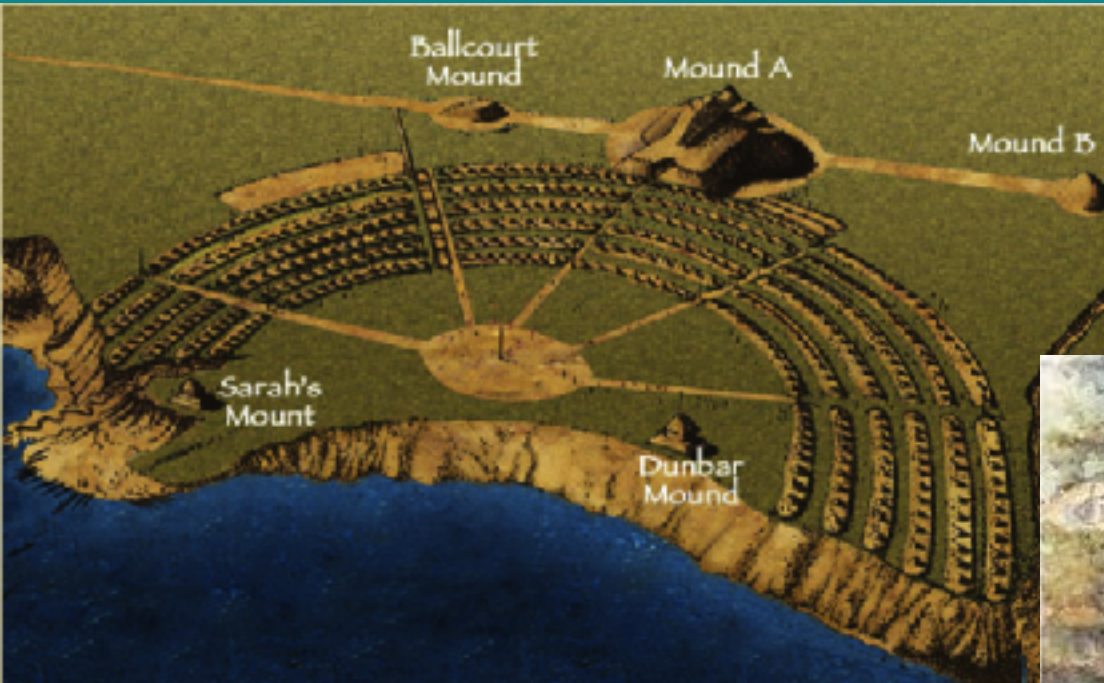
SHELL RINGS



- 5000 to 3000 BP
- Mound rings made of coastal shells
- Home structures on top of some mounds like Sapelo Island, GA



POVERTY POINT



4200 to 2300 BP

Arcing mounds facing a ceremonial space

Almost a mile across end to end



ARCHAIC ERA ART

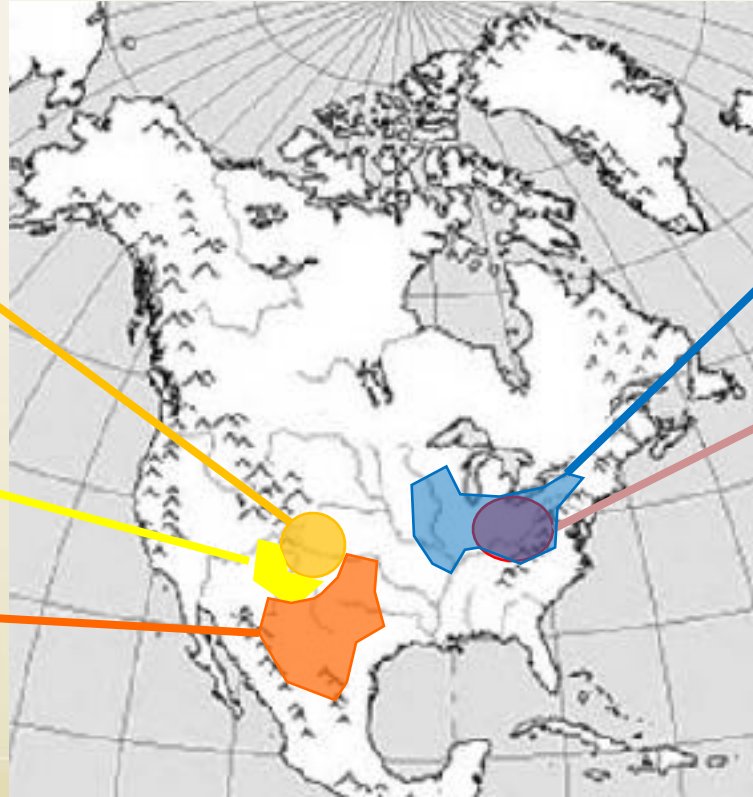


FORMATIVE (3000BP-1500BP)

Ancestral Puebloan
(Anasazi)

Hohokam

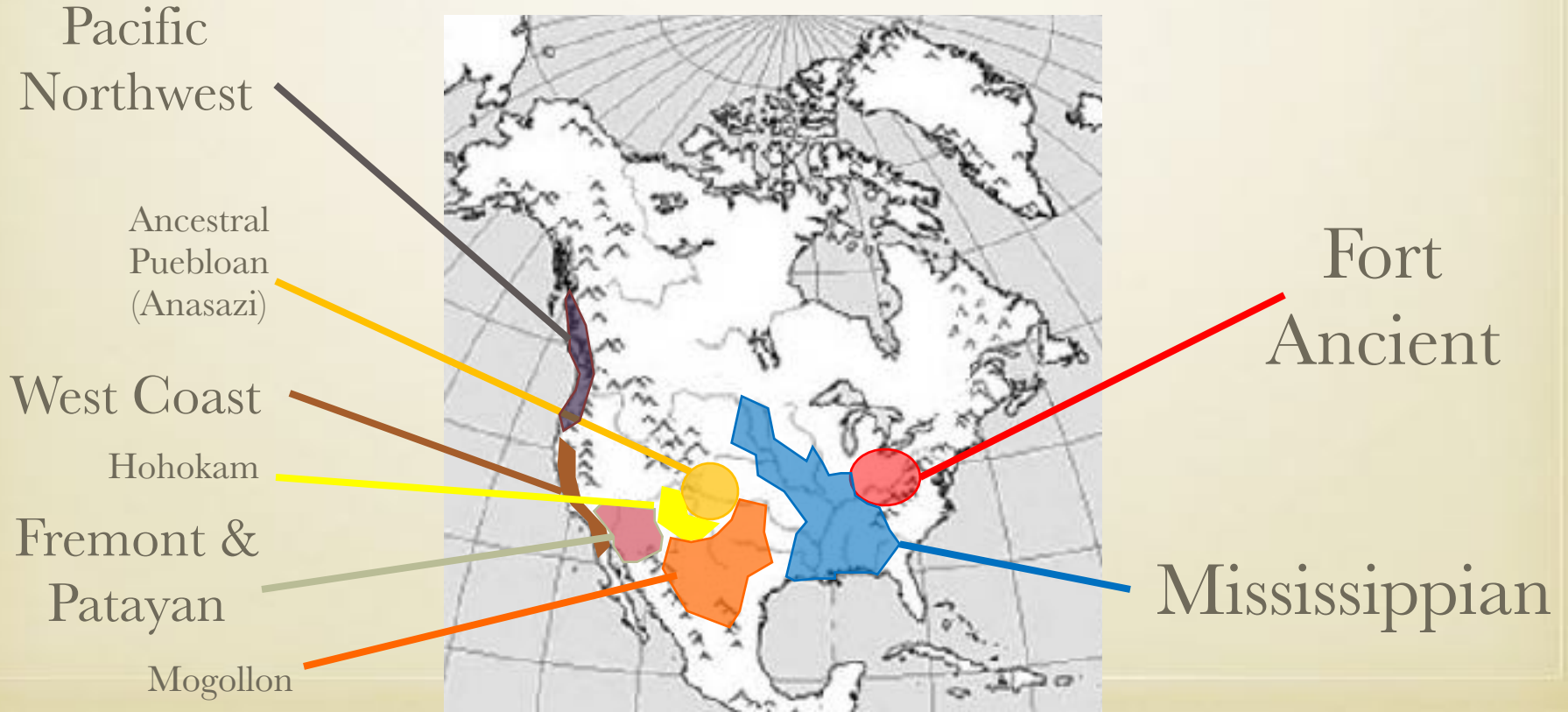
Mogollon



Hopewell

Adena

CLASSIC (1500BP-800BP)



CLASSIC (1500BP-800BP)



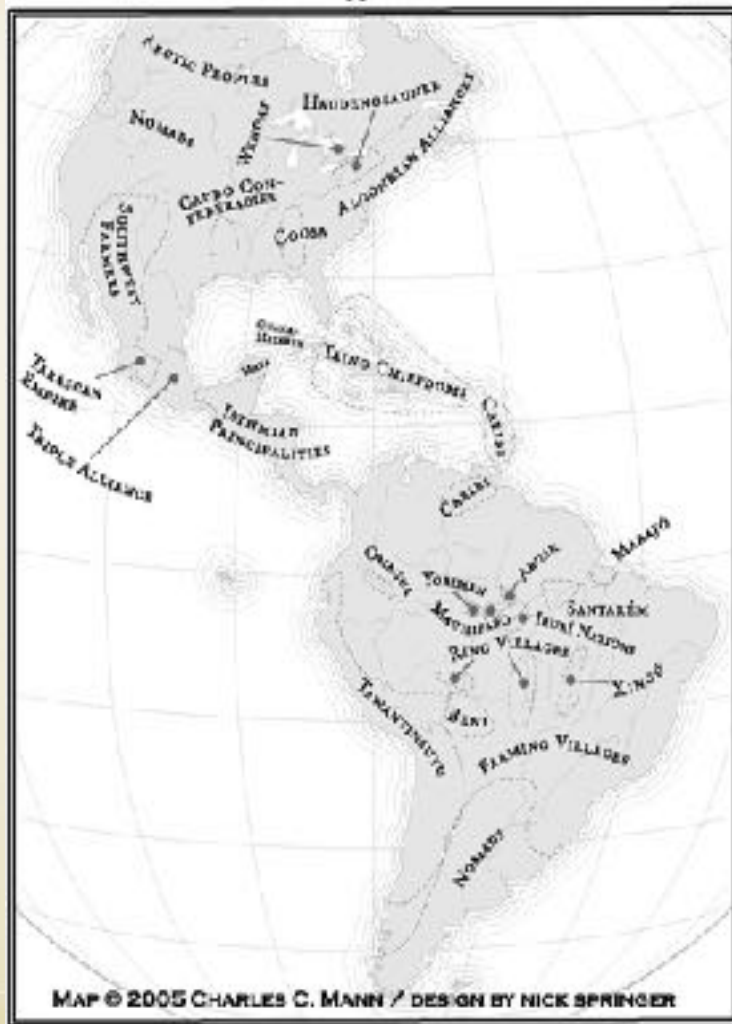
Cahokia



NATIVE AMERICANS OF NORTH AMERICA DEVELOPED RICH, SOPHISTICATED, DIVERSE CULTURAL TRADITIONS WHICH EXPERIENCED MUCH CHANGE OVER TIME

After contact, the over 1,000 communities and nations in North America speaking almost 400 different languages incorporated European technology and weaponry, made new alliances, changed community structures, and converted many Europeans to their way of life.

Native America, 1492 A.D.



**Indian Culture Areas,
North America,
about 1500**

- Arctic
- Subarctic
- Northwest Coast
- Plains
- Great Basin
- California
- Southeast
- Basin
- Eastern Woodlands
Northern
- Eastern Woodlands
Southern

