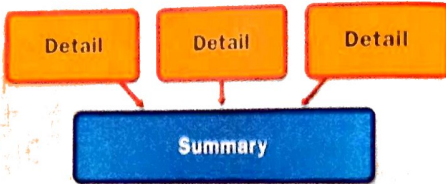


## Early Life, East and West



### Summarize

Summarizing means telling the main idea of a paragraph, section, or story. Writers will use summarizing sentences to describe a main idea.



- A good summary is short. It tells the most important ideas. It should not include many words or details.

Sometimes a paragraph's **topic sentence** provides a summary. **Details** can be found in other parts of the paragraph.

**People from other places have come to the Americas for thousands of years. The first to arrive came from Asia more than 10,000 years ago. The earliest settlers probably traveled across a land bridge from Asia.**



### Summarizing Early Life, East and West

People have moved around on Earth since early times. During the Ice Age people traveled from Asia to North America. At that time, the sea level dropped, and there was a bridge of land from Asia to America. After the sea level rose, the continents were separated by the Bering Sea.

People spread into new places throughout the Western Hemisphere. They went into North America and southward into Central America and South America.

Ideas and goods moved as well. The Mound Builders, people who lived near the Mississippi River, traded with people of the Rocky Mountains, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes.

After the Spanish arrived with horses, the way of life of the Plains people changed greatly. The people rode swiftly on horseback to hunt buffalo.

Movements of people, goods, and ideas also occurred in the Eastern Hemisphere. Along the Silk Road, which led from China to Europe, people traded silk and other goods. The European merchant Marco Polo visited China in the 1200s and brought back tales of wonders.

In Africa, people were also moving. Camel caravans moved across the Sahara Desert. Arab traders from the north brought salt to exchange for gold. Mansa Musa, the powerful ruler of Mali, made a trip across northern Africa into Mecca in Arabia.

In the 1400s, explorers from China and Europe expanded their travels. Chinese ships reached the east coast of Africa. Shortly afterward, Portuguese ships sailed around the southern tip of Africa to India.

### Apply it!

Use the reading strategy of summarizing to answer these questions.

- 1 Which sentence gives a summary of the ideas in the reading?
- 2 Besides people, what else travels from place to place?
- 3 What activity did both the Chinese and the Portuguese have in common?

CHAPTER

1

# Life in the Western Hemisphere

## Locating Time and Place

**Bering Strait land bridge**  
People begin coming to the Americas from Asia.

Lesson 1



**Serpent Mound**  
Mound Builders create huge mounds of present-day Ohio.

Lesson 2



1325



### Why We Remember

*Sharp, pointed stones pierced the hides of huge, hairy elephant-like mammals. A twisting mound of earth, shaped like a snake, rose above the countryside. Apartment-style dwellings clung to the face of a cliff.*

All these scenes took place many hundreds of years ago. They occurred in land that today is part of the United States, but they happened long before the United States was born. Each of them had something to do with the history of our country. As you will read, many more scenes are part of the story of the people who first settled this land.

# LESSON 1



## PREVIEW

### Focus on the Main Idea

People reached the Americas from Asia and began to settle throughout North and South America.

### PLACES

Bering Strait

### VOYABULARY

Ice Age  
glacier  
migrate  
theory  
artifact  
archaeologist



Mostly mammoth hunters used tools like this to throw spears.

50,000 years ago

40,000–10,000 years ago  
Hunters from Asia cross into North America

10,000 years ago  
Early people in the Americas live by hunting and gathering

7,000 years ago  
People in the Americas develop agriculture

# Migration to the Americas

## You Are There

Though the cold air bites into your face and hands, you barely notice it. You are on your first big hunt.

You're following a giant woolly mammoth—an elephant-like creature standing nine feet tall. Long tusks thrust forward from its face.

Silently, you and the other hunters creep up on the giant animal. Suddenly, you all stand up and hurl your spears. Sharp stone points pierce the mammoth. It staggers and you all rush toward it, jabbing it with your spears. Down goes the mammoth, soon to die.

You and your group will carve many pounds of meat from the slain animal, which will feed your people for weeks. Your first hunt has been a success.



**Summarize** As you read, look for details that summarize the ways of life of the first people to settle in the Americas.

## Moving Into the Americas

The scene you just read could have occurred about 20,000 years ago, during the **ice Age**. This was a long period of extreme cold. Low temperatures caused large areas of Earth's water to freeze, forming thick sheets of ice, or **glaciers** (GLAY shers). As the map on this page shows, much of Earth's water was frozen into glaciers. The level of the oceans dropped.

The **Bering Strait** is a narrow stretch of water that separates Asia from North America. During the Ice Age, the Bering Strait became shallower. Land that had been underwater was uncovered, forming a long land bridge that linked Asia and North America.

Many scholars believe that people first began to **migrate**, or move, to the Americas between 40,000 to 10,000 years ago. But how did they get here? The land bridge gave historians a **theory**, or a possible explanation. Perhaps large animals like mammoth and caribou began to cross the land bridge from Asia. Perhaps hunters began to follow these animals on foot. As the animals moved deeper into North America, so did the hunters.

Some scholars think that early people may have migrated to

the Americas by boat. Perhaps both theories are right and different people arrived in different ways.

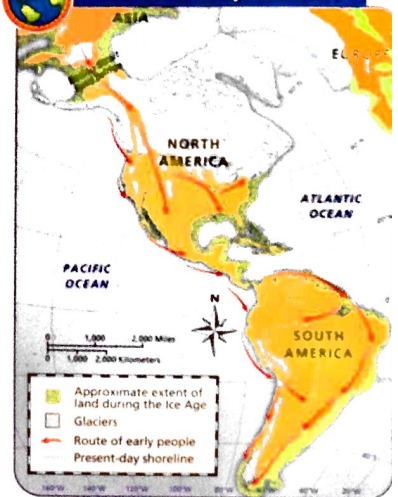
The first Americans migrated throughout North America and South America. You can trace their routes through the Americas on the map on this page. They lived in many different environments. They adapted, or changed, their ways of living to meet the challenges of these environments.

**REVIEW** What details explain how a land bridge might have made it possible for people to migrate to the Americas from Asia?

**Summarize**



## Routes of Early Americans



► Early people adapted to different environments throughout the Americas.

**MAP SKILL** Movement in which direction were people moving as they traveled



## Ways of Life

Life was a struggle for the earliest people in the Americas. Getting enough food to eat for all was often a challenge. So they lived in small bands, or groups, of people. Their way of life centered on hunting. They depended on wandering herds of animals for food, so they moved often. The band you met earlier would have stayed near the mammoth they killed until its meat ran out. Then they would have moved on to begin a new hunt.

The early people used more than food from animals like the mammoth. They stripped the hides from the animals and made clothes from them. They also stretched hides over wood frames to make their temporary homes. They made tools like needles and scrapers from the animal's bones and tusks.

The early people also made tools from stone. Pressing one stone against another, they chipped spear points, knives, and hand axes. Look at the tools shown on this page to see how sharp and useful they could be.

▶ Archaeologists often find artifacts like these stone spear points buried deep in the ground.

How do you think the early people might have used them?

The earliest people left no written record of how they lived. So how do we know about their lives? Clues they left behind—called artifacts—tell us. An **artifact** is an object that someone made in the past. The stone tools on this page are artifacts that early Americans left behind.

Archaeologists (ahr key AHL uh jists) are scientists who interpret these clues.

**Archaeologists** study the artifacts of people who lived long ago and draw conclusions from them. For example, sturdy bone needles reveal that people stitched strong hides together to make their clothing, blankets, and even shelter. What might the spear points on this page tell archaeologists? They tell that the early people hunted for their food.

**REVIEW** Summarize how the early Americans used the animals they killed.

🗣️ Summarize

## Changing Way of Life

About 10,000 years ago, the Ice Age gradually came to an end. Earth's climate began to get warmer and glaciers melted. As time passed some of the large Ice Age animals became extinct, or died out. Perhaps they could not adapt to the new climate. Or perhaps the hunters had killed them off.

Whatever the cause, the first Americans had to find new food sources. They continued to hunt for smaller animals and to fish. They also gathered plants that grew wild, like grains, root vegetables, berries, and nuts. Hunters had become hunter-gatherers, but they were still on the move. They moved with the seasons to find whatever foods each season provided.

Then, about 7,000 years ago in present-day Mexico, people began to learn how to

grow food themselves. Instead of gathering wild grain, they started planting its seeds. Agriculture made it possible for people to settle in one place. Now wandering bands of hunter-gatherers could become members of settled communities.

**REVIEW** How did the way of life change when the climate became warmer?

🗣️ Summarize

## Summarize the Lesson

**40,000–10,000 years ago** During the Ice Age, hunters may have migrated across a land bridge from Asia to North America.

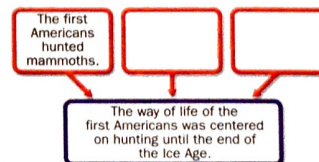
**10,000 years ago** Early people lived by hunting and gathering.

**7,000 years ago** The early people learned how to grow food and became members of settled communities.

### LESSON 1 REVIEW

#### Check Facts and Main Ideas

1. 🗣️ **Summarize** On a separate sheet of paper, fill in the missing details from this lesson that support the summary.



2. Why do some scholars think people migrated from Asia to North America during the Ice Age?

- How did the first Americans live during the Ice Age?
- Why did hunters have to find new ways to get food when Earth's climate began to get warmer?
- Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions** How do you think the early people discovered how to grow food?

#### Link to Art

**Make a Diorama** Work with several classmates to make a diorama showing how the early people lived. Be sure to show a hunt and how they used the animals they killed.

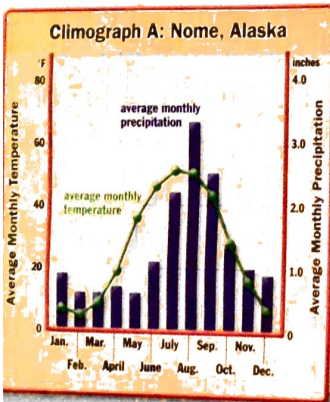


## Read Climographs

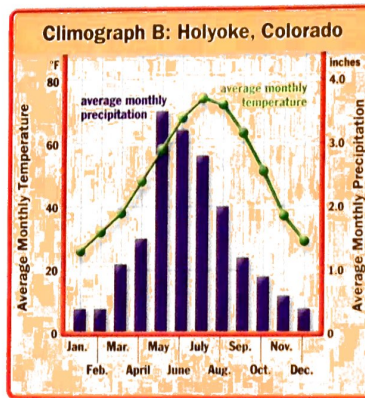
**What?** A climograph is a graph that shows two kinds of information about the climate of a place. It shows both the average temperature and the average precipitation—rain or snow—for a particular place over a period of time. You can see examples of climographs on this page.

**Why?** Climographs help you understand the typical climate of a place. You have been reading about the land bridge that once connected Asia and North America during the Ice Age. That land bridge was where the Bering Strait is now. You learned that after the climate grew warmer, the sea levels rose and once again separated the land on the two continents. To study the climate today near the Bering Strait, you can use a climograph.

► As the climographs show, Nome, Alaska, (left) has a very different climate than does the area around Holyoke, Colorado (next page).



**How?** Climograph A shows the average monthly temperature and precipitation today in Nome, Alaska, near the Bering Sea. Read each of the labels at the sides. The left side labels the average monthly temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Temperature is shown on the line graph. You can see that the average January temperature for Nome is 7° Fahrenheit. You can see that the average temperature in May for Nome is 36°F.



The right side of the graph shows average monthly precipitation. Precipitation is shown on the bar graph. The average precipitation in January for Nome is 0.9 inches. What is the average monthly precipitation in May for Nome?

Climograph B shows the average monthly temperatures and precipitation for Holyoke, Colorado. In the next lesson, you will read about people who lived long ago in this area. Compare the average January temperatures for Nome, Alaska, and Holyoke, Colorado. Which is colder? How do you know? Which receives more precipitation in May? How do you know?

### Think and Apply

- 1 During which months in Nome, Alaska is the average daily temperature below freezing—32°F or 0°C?
- 2 What month gets the most precipitation in Nome?
- 3 In Holyoke, Colorado, what is the warmest month? The wettest month?