

Early American Artifacts



For thousands of years, diverse cultures have inhabited the continent we call North America. Many of those cultures have died out, dispersed, evolved, or been wiped out, but artifacts from their long histories remain. Answer these questions about the physical evidence left behind by four early cultures.

1. The Hohokam people lived in what is now Arizona from 1 CE to approximately 1450. Corn formed a staple of their diet. What tools did they use to grind it into flour?

- a. Small water-powered mills
- b. Roughened rock slabs and grinding stones
- c. Elaborately carved mortars and pestles
- d. Tree-stump basins and pounding sticks

2. From 800 to 1400, the Mississippian Mound Builder cultures flourished. The earthen mounds distinctive of these cultures served as:

- a. Platforms on which important buildings were erected
- b. Landfills, for the disposal of waste
- c. Burial mounds for deceased leaders
- d. Both a and c

3. The Anasazi, or Ancestral Pueblo, occupied the Four Corners area of New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado beginning around 1100 BCE. Today, through archaeological finds, the Anasazi are known for pottery decorated with:

- a. Glazed abstract designs in warm colors
- b. Animal figures carved into the pots after firing
- c. Black geometric designs on light backgrounds
- d. Intricate line designs stamped into the clay

4. The Timucua, a set of cultures united by a common language, inhabited parts of Florida and Georgia long before European contact. Between 800 and 1400, the Timucua of modern Volusia County, FL, constructed a [...] two acres wide and 50 feet high. Fill in the blank.



- a. Tiered stone pyramid
- b. Earthen mound shaped like a snake
- c. Complex of clay brick rooms
- d. Heap of shells

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