Lecture: In The Beginning.....

(Part II)

Learning Target 1: I can discuss the various theories on how the Native Americans arrived in America

Learning Target 2: I can discuss the impact of various Native American cultures
Native American History

A-Even though we call this history, it is actually archeology, because most evidence is taken from fossil remains

B-Last Ice Age
   1) Began about 100,000 year ago
   2) Glaciers covered most of what is the United States
   3) Somewhere between 20,000 and 12,000 years ago, the first people came to the Americas
Native American History

4) Theories on how they arrived
   A) King Tut’s lost twin
   B) One of the Lost Tribes of Israel
   C) Single Continent Theory
   D) Bering Land Bridge Theory
   E) Others???
Native American History

Single Continent Theory: Pangea
Native American History

Bering Land Bridge Theory
Native American History

C-Why come to the Americas?

1) The early people who came were hunters and followed their food supply (herds of animals who roamed)

2) Evidence: Spear points of same design found in both Russia and Americas as far south as New Mexico
Native American History

D-Development of Cultures in the Americas

1) About 7,000 B.C.E. farming begins
   A) Begins with wild crops
   B) Maize and other grains (esp. wheat) become the main staples of American life
   C) Farming allows villages to be formed
Rise of Native Culture: Latin America

1) Great Empires flourished from about 300 AD until Europeans arrived (circa 1500)
Rise of Native Culture: Latin America

2) Inca (Ecuador to Chile)
   A) Cities built on top/side of mountains
   B) Terrace Farming
   C) Machu Picchu: Greatest structure of the Incan Empire (In modern-day Peru)
Rise of Native Culture: Latin America

3) Mayan (Mexican Yucatan)
   A) Scientific minded, esp. astronomy
   B) Developed an accurate calendar
   C) Developed system of writing
   D) Great engineers: Built pyramids similar to the Egyptians

   1)-this is why some believe the King Tut theory
Rise of Native Culture: Latin America

4) Aztec
   A) Warlike
   B) Conquered many cultures, including Toltecs
   C) Very technical, esp. with weapons
   D) Capital: Tenochtitlan
   E) Human sacrifices to the gods
Rise of Native Culture: Latin America

***Each of the groups above believed in gods similar to the Roman or Greek mythological gods

Ex: Quetzalcoatl: Aztec god of wisdom

Itzamna: Mayan god who founded Maya culture

Manco Capac: Incan god who founded Inca Civilization
U.S. and Canada

Northeast
Southeast
Central Plains
Far North
Northwest
Southwest