



How did the environment shape Native American cultures and lifestyles regionally?

Why was the domestication of

maize so important?

#### Native Americans in 1491

- ★ 15,000+ years of development
- ★ Diverse, complex societies
- ★ Agriculture established around 6000 B.C.
  - Populous, urbanized societies developed
- ★ Complex social structures
- ★ Highly populated powerful empires
- ★ Chiefdoms and Confederacies
- ★ Geography influenced cultural development
  - Spiritual connection to nature



# How did the first contacts among Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Americas change world history in the century after 1492?

- Demographic changes: reconfiguration of human populations across the globe
- New patterns of trade
- New patterns of warfare
- ☐ Challenges to peoples' worldviews





## The Age of "Discovery"

- ★ The "Old World" and "New World" rediscovered one another after 300 generations of isolation since the Bering Land Bridge connected them
- ★ Exploration of the Americas ⊃ new people, crops, animals
- ★ The Columbian Exchange: the interchange of people, pathogens, crops, livestock, commodities across the Atlantic Ocean
- ★ Trans-Atlantic trade developed in the course of the 17th century (1600s)

#### European Colonization

- ★ Initial dominance of Spain & Portugal
- ★ England, Dutch, & France establish colonies in the early 17th century (1600s)

- ★ Motivations for colonization --3 Gs:
  - God (England was anti-Catholic)
  - Glory (power grab; prestige for nation)
  - Gold (profit \$\$\$, mercantilism)



### English Colonization

- ★ Internal turmoil due to the Protestant Reformation reduced the strength of England during the 16th century.
- ★ Furthermore, the population of England increased from 3 million to 4 million between 1550 and 1600. This was not economically sustainable, and resulted in half of the population living below the poverty line.
- ★ The poorest of English society were encouraged to emigrate to the New World.
  - Advertised as a Utopia where lower classes could own property
    = basis of liberty