

- Native Americans or social, political, economic, conditions of the people at the time of the discovery of America?
- Before the entrance of the Europeans, the American continent was inhabited by various racial groups like Indians, Mayas, Toltecs, Aztecs, and Incas. Nobody had ever heard of them till the colonization of the continent started that these clans have existed in this continent.

The First Americans :-

- The Earth fell into an ice age about 120,000 years ago, and with the lowering of the oceans, hidden land was exposed.
- Between 15,000 and 50,000 years ago, various small nomadic hunting groups from Asia crossed the land bridge (a land bridge connecting Siberia—located in modern-day eastern Russia—and Alaska), becoming the first human inhabitants of the Americas.
- Over next millennia, these earliest Americans dispersed across much of the Western Hemisphere.
- Sea levels rose and melting glaciers filled the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basin with water.
- The glaciers melted, revealing eastern forests, central plains, and western deserts.
- In time, the land bridge disappeared back under the water now known as the Bering Strait.
- The groups also fished and gathered local provisions, like seeds and nuts from the land.
- Around 5000 years ago, groups started farming, leading to stable communities in the East and Midwest by 3000 BC.

The Tribes Emergence :-

- Native American settlements led to the formation of tribes.
- They developed their own languages, social hierarchies, and distinct religious beliefs and practice.
- Many tribes invented specialised tools and skill : the bow and arrow, pottery, weaving, and basketry.
- They made contact with each other through trade and warfare in their neighbouring geographic areas.

Native Americans In 15th Century :-

The Native Americans filled all of the habitable parts of North and South America. The Native Americans had become diverse people who greeted / met the first Europeans. They spoke between 300 and 350 distinct languages, and their societies and ways of living varied tremendously.

1. Indians :-

- It is estimated that the Indian population on the American continent in 1492 ranged between 25 to 50 million.
- It was mainly concentrated in the tropics of Mexico, Bolivia and Peru.
- The Indians were typically agriculturists and were so backward.
- They did not know the use of wheel, and could not make tools of steel.
- The Indians had no political system.
- The Indians grew maize, beans, squash pumpkin, tobacco, peanuts, and even knew the making of sugar too.
- Most of Indians did not know weaving and used skins for clothing.

- No written language existed, though some knew painting.
- These people worshipped natural objects.

On the basis of their language and culture Indians may be divided into following categories:

1- Algonquians:

They ~~live~~^{were} settled in the Central America and in Northern continent. These languages are known for their polysynthetic nature, which they often form complex words by combining smaller meaningful elements. They spoke Ojibwe, Cree, and Mikmaq.

2- Iroquois:

They settled in the Eastern Sea coast and North America. These Indians were most warlike of all the Indian tribes.

3- Pueblo Indians:

Pueblo Indians settled in the South-Western United States. They were most civilized among the Indians.

4- Athapascans:

Athapascans settled in the Northern and Western Canada. They were primitive people who lived by hunting and fishing.

2. MAYAS:-

- Mayas were another race of native population ~~was~~, who inhabited Guatimalas, parts of Mexico, Honduras, El-Salvador.
- Mayas were civilized people and knew astronomy, arithmetic, architecture, use alphabet.
- They were living in small city states under rulers. Before the advent of European, they came under the Aztecs.

- Men and women used clothes, and jewellery.
- Maize was the staple food, roast dog was a great delicacy/food, and both fish and fowl were commonly taken.

3. Toltecs and Aztecs :-

- These people were mostly settled in the Mexican region.
- Toltecs and Aztecs were civilized people and knew / possessed knowledge of cultivation, industry, and commerce.
- They had no written language and their writing was hieroglyphic.
- The society was highly stratified and they were a politically organized people.
- The Aztecs of Mexico and Incas of Peru built great empires.

4. Incas :-

- When Columbus discovered America, Incas had well organised political and social system.
- They had control over a large area of South America : Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, parts of Chile and Argentina.
- It was an organization based largely on blood and tribal ties a well developed military system.
- They worshipped the Sun, the earth, the moon, and the creator.
- They possessed a rich stock of poetry and religious, historical literature but they did not have system of writing too.