

First Americans

School Name _____

Student Name _____

Teacher Name _____

Date ____ / ____ /20 ____

Per. ____

Fill in the blanks with the following words:

1492

farming

Saint Louis

Bering Strait

fifteenth

Before a single European set foot in America, the New World, great civilizations had already arisen, flourished, and disappeared. When Europeans arrived at the end of the _____ century, as many as 20 million inhabitants were already living out their lives, just in the lands north of what would become known as the Rio Grande.

Thousands of years earlier, most of these people had come from Asia across the _____ in a slow migration to present day Alaska. They eventually moved further south, finally settling in areas throughout the continents that would come to be known as North and South America.



The diverse populations lived in towns and villages. They sustained themselves through _____, irrigating land to grow corn and other crops. Others lived in palaces of 200 rooms carved out of cliffs. Some roamed the plains hunting caribou and gathering food. Some fished and caught ducks using decoys.

Complex social and religious beliefs were established two centuries before the arrival of Columbus. For example, Cahokia, a ceremonial area on the Mississippi River near the present-day city of _____ had a population of 30,000 - the same as London.

At the time of Columbus' first voyage of discovery in _____, over 1,000 separate native tribes spoke about 200 separate languages. The lifespan of the indigenous Americans - about 35 years - was the same as for Europeans. The lives of the first Americans lives were as rich and varied as anywhere on Earth.