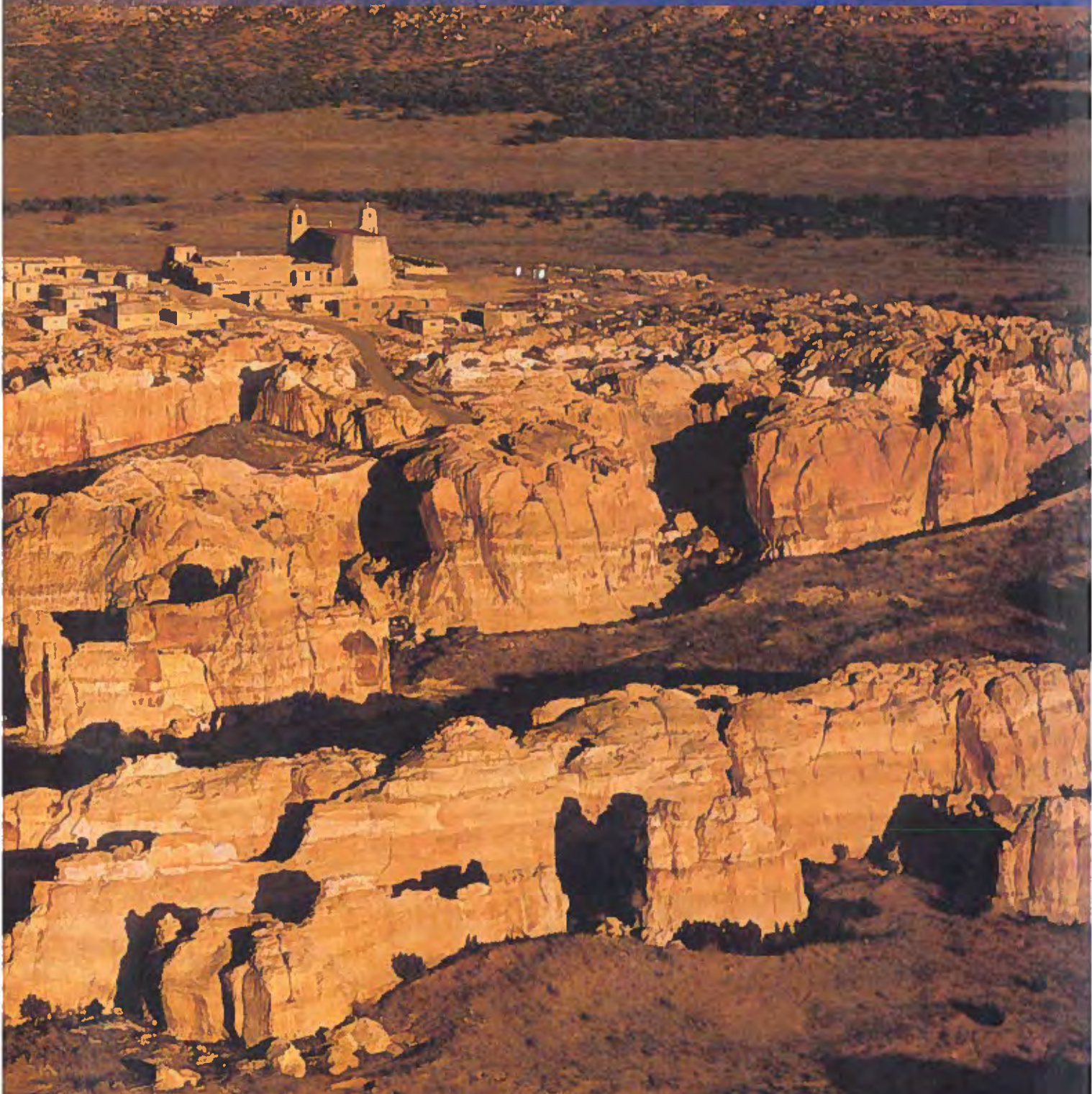


Early People



▶ Acoma Pueblo in Acoma, New Mexico

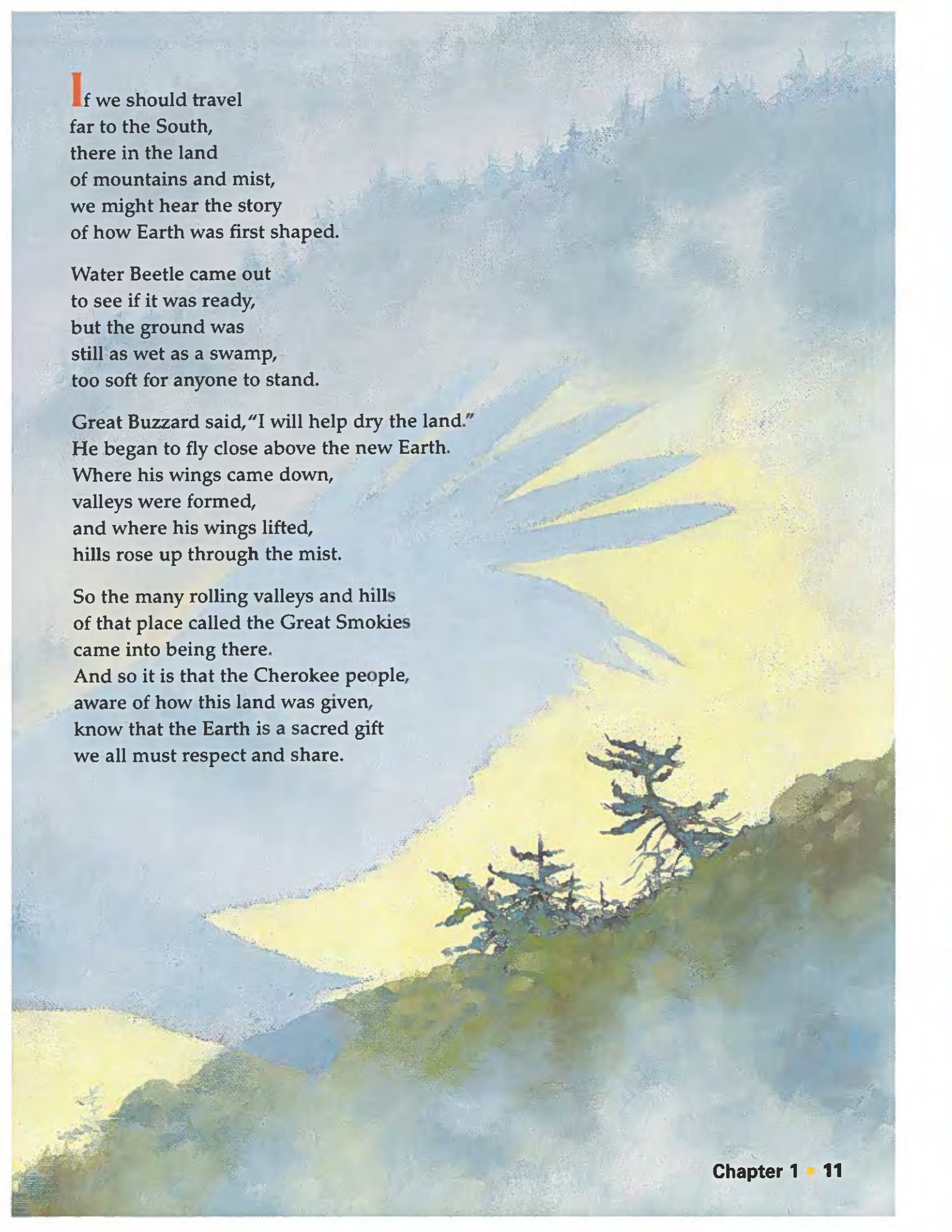
**Start
with a
Poem**



Between Earth and Sky

**by Joseph Bruchac
illustrated by John Martin**

Many people use poems, songs, or stories to tell about important events and people in their past. Some of these stories are legends. A legend is a story handed down by a group of people over time. Some legends tell about brave or heroic people. Others try to explain the origins of animals, plants, and the physical features found in the world.



If we should travel
far to the South,
there in the land
of mountains and mist,
we might hear the story
of how Earth was first shaped.

Water Beetle came out
to see if it was ready,
but the ground was
still as wet as a swamp,
too soft for anyone to stand.

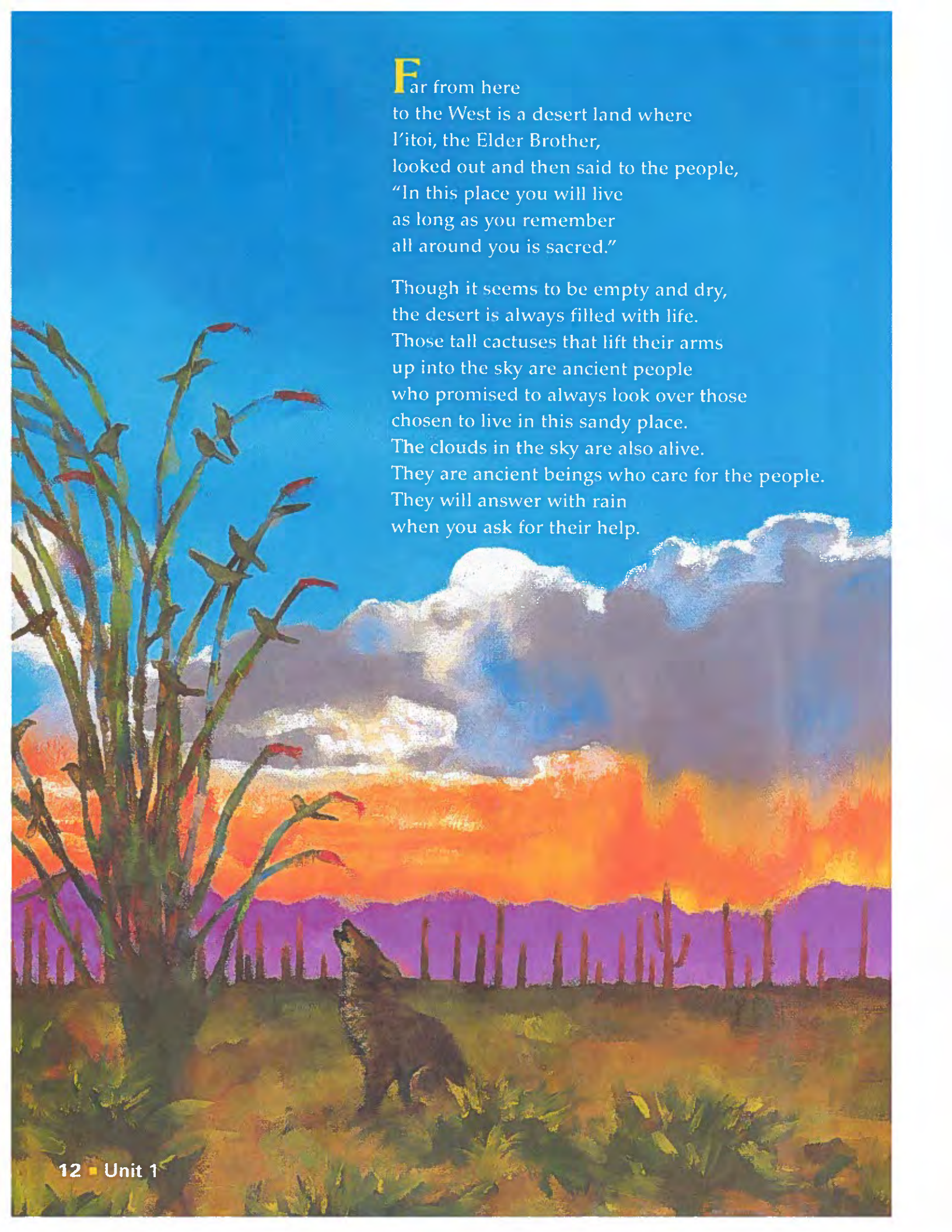
Great Buzzard said, "I will help dry the land."
He began to fly close above the new Earth.
Where his wings came down,
valleys were formed,
and where his wings lifted,
hills rose up through the mist.

So the many rolling valleys and hills
of that place called the Great Smokies
came into being there.

And so it is that the Cherokee people,
aware of how this land was given,
know that the Earth is a sacred gift
we all must respect and share.

Far from here
to the West is a desert land where
l'ittoi, the Elder Brother,
looked out and then said to the people,
"In this place you will live
as long as you remember
all around you is sacred."

Though it seems to be empty and dry,
the desert is always filled with life.
Those tall cactuses that lift their arms
up into the sky are ancient people
who promised to always look over those
chosen to live in this sandy place.
The clouds in the sky are also alive.
They are ancient beings who care for the people.
They will answer with rain
when you ask for their help.



Here in the desert, where the air is clear,
you can hear the sound of
blessing rains, which come
after the people pray,
asking the clouds once more
to bring the sacred moisture
singing from their rainhouse
on the eastern horizon.
Then, as the ocotillo turns green
and the saguaro cactuses blossom,
they watch the cycle of life begin again.

Response Corner

- 1 What is the author describing in each poem?
- 2 Explain why people use poems, songs, and stories to explain the world around them.

Lesson

1

The Land and States



WHAT TO KNOW

How do the geography and climate differ as you travel across the 50 states?

- ✓ Identify and describe some of the major landforms and bodies of water in the United States.
- ✓ Learn the location of the 50 states and their capitals.

VOCABULARY

landform region p. 15

climate p. 16

environment p. 18

PEOPLE

Robert Louis Stevenson

PLACES

Coastal Plain

Appalachian Mountains

Interior Plains

Mississippi River

Great Lakes

Rocky Mountains

Great Basin

Sierra Nevada



COMPARE AND CONTRAST



California Standards

HSS 5.1, 5.1.1, 5.9



Imagine that you could live anywhere on Earth. Would you choose to live near the ocean or near mountains? Would you rather live in a region where winters are long and snowy or where most days are sunny and warm?

No matter how you answer these questions, you can find all these different places in the same country. The United States is a large country made up of 50 states. You may know what the land and climate are like in one state, but you may wonder how they differ in other parts of the country.

► The San Juan Mountains cover more than 12,000 square miles in southwestern Colorado.



LOCATE IT



Landforms of North America



ANALYZE SKILL Analyze Maps

Regions What mountain region lies to the east of the Mississippi River?

The Coastal Plain

In the late 1800s, a well-known writer named **Robert Louis Stevenson** traveled across the United States. Stevenson was living in Scotland when he received word that Fanny Osbourne, his sweetheart, was ill. Osbourne lived in the United States, and Stevenson decided to go there. He

did not realize how much his trip across the United States would teach him about the nation's geography and climate.

Climate is the kind of weather a place has over a long time.

On August 7, 1879, Stevenson left Scotland. He boarded a ship and spent ten stormy days crossing the Atlantic Ocean. As the ship neared New York City,

Stevenson looked out on a broad, tree-lined plain. This flat, low land along the Atlantic Ocean is part of a much larger region called the Coastal Plain.

The Coastal Plain begins along the coast of Massachusetts as a narrow strip of land no more than 10 miles wide. It gets much wider farther south, near Florida. From Florida, the Coastal Plain extends west along the Gulf of Mexico into Texas and the country of Mexico.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
What is the difference between the Coastal Plain in Massachusetts and in Florida?

The Appalachians

Stevenson did not stay in New York City long. Osbourne lived on the Pacific Coast of the United States—in San Francisco, California. To reach California, Stevenson boarded a train for the long journey to the western coast.

When the train reached Pennsylvania, the land began to change. Instead of being flat, it was now filled with wide

valleys and hills. This area of valleys and hills on the eastern side of the **Appalachian** (a•puh•LAY•chuhn) **Mountains** is called the Piedmont (PEED•mahnt). *Piedmont* means “at the base of a mountain.” The Piedmont begins in New Jersey and extends as far south as Alabama.

The tree-covered Appalachian Mountains rise above the Piedmont. This 2,000-mile-long mountain range, or group of connected mountains, runs from southeastern Canada to central Alabama.

The Appalachian Mountains are the oldest mountains in North America. Over time, the mountains’ peaks have been eroded, or worn down by rain and wind. The highest peaks in the Appalachians are about 7,000 feet tall.

A large part of the Appalachians is made up of a series of ridges and valleys that run next to each other. Among these ridges are the Great Smoky, Blue Ridge, Catskill, and White Mountains.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How is the Piedmont different from the Coastal Plain?

► The Appalachian Mountains are more than 250 million years old.



The Interior Plains

West of the Appalachian Mountains, the land gets flat again. Here, in the center of the United States, Stevenson saw other plains, which we call the Interior Plains.

The **Interior Plains** stretch across the middle of the United States, from the Appalachian Mountains in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west. Most of the land in the Interior Plains is flat, with many streams and rivers. In the middle of the country, these waters drain into the **Mississippi River**. Here, the mighty Mississippi is fed by large rivers such as the Arkansas, the Illinois, the Ohio, and the Missouri. Also in the Interior Plains are the five **Great Lakes**, which make up the world's largest group of freshwater lakes.

In the eastern part of the Interior Plains, often called the Central Plains, the land is mostly flat with numerous

streams and rivers. During his journey across the Central Plains, Stevenson wrote that "the country was flat . . . but far from being dull. All through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, . . . it was rich and various."*

When Stevenson's train stopped in the middle of Nebraska, he saw that the **environment**, or the surroundings in which people, plants, and animals live, was yet again different. This western part of the Interior Plains is called the Great Plains, and includes parts of 10 states.

In the Great Plains, the land becomes much flatter and the climate much drier. There are few rivers and almost no trees. To Stevenson, the land seemed to look the same for mile after mile. He wrote that a person "may walk five miles and see nothing; ten, and it is as though he had not moved."*

READING CHECK 🔗 **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How do the Central Plains differ from the Great Plains?

*Robert Louis Stevenson. *From Scotland to Silverado*. Harvard University Press, 1966.



▶ This field in Nebraska is part of miles and miles of flat land that make up the Great Plains.



The Rocky Mountains and Beyond

As Stevenson's train moved west, the flat Interior Plains gave way to the towering **Rocky Mountains**. The Rockies cover much of the western United States and are our country's largest and longest mountain range. They stretch from Mexico through Canada and into Alaska. Like the Appalachians, the Rockies are made up of smaller ranges.

The Rocky Mountains are much younger than the Appalachians. The peaks of the Rockies appear sharp and jagged because they have not been eroded for as long a time. More than 50 peaks in Colorado alone are higher than 14,000 feet. In the mountains, climate can vary as the land rises up. Because the Rockies are so high, many of the peaks are covered with snow all year long.

Stevenson's train moved slowly, taking two days to cross the Rocky Mountains. Then the environment changed once again. Now Stevenson looked out the window and saw only "desert scenes, fiery hot and deadly weary."*

Between the Rocky Mountains on the east and other mountains farther west is a large area of land that is mostly dry. It is sometimes called the Intermountain Region. *Intermountain* means "between the mountains." Part of this land is the **Great Basin**, which includes Nevada and parts of five neighboring states. A basin is low, bowl-shaped land with higher land all around it. At the southwestern edge of the Great Basin lies Death Valley, California. The lowest point in North America, part of Death Valley lies more than 250 feet below sea level.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How do the Rocky Mountains differ from the Appalachian Mountains?

*Robert Louis Stevenson. *From Scotland to Silverado*. Harvard University Press, 1966.



More Mountains and Valleys

Stevenson's train left the desert and headed west toward more mountains. Lying just inside California is the **Sierra Nevada** (see•AYR•uh nuh•VA•duh). *Sierra Nevada* is Spanish for "snowy mountain range." The eastern slope of the mountains is so steep that riders on Stevenson's train were pinned to their seats as the train climbed the mountains!

Other mountains lie north of the Sierra Nevada, in Washington and Oregon.

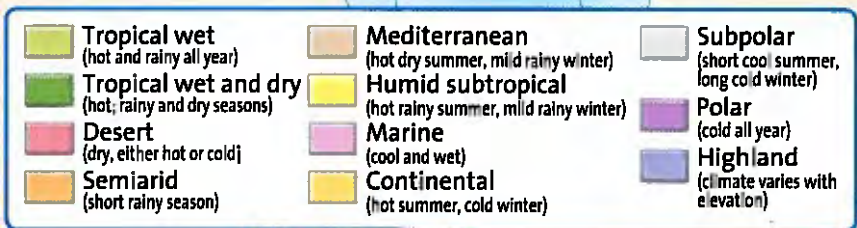
These mountains make up the Cascade Range. West of the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade Range are three large, fertile valleys. The largest is the more than 400-mile-long Central Valley in California. The others are the Puget Sound Lowland in Washington and the Willamette (wuh•LA•muht) Valley in Oregon.

Along the Pacific Ocean in California, Oregon, and Washington are the Coast Ranges. These low mountains give the Pacific a rocky, rugged look. At many places these mountains drop sharply into the ocean. Unlike the Atlantic Coast, the Pacific Coast has very little flat land.

ANALYZER SKILL Analyze Maps Climate influences life in every area of the United States.

Regions In which climate region is your community located?

Climate Regions of the United States





► In Big Sur, California, steep cliffs have formed where the Coast Ranges meet the Pacific Ocean.


Stevenson arrived in San Francisco 24 days after he had left home. At long last, he met Osbourne, who had regained her health. He had traveled from one coast of the United States to the other. He had seen much of the country and many of its major landform regions. By taking a train across the United States, Stevenson had learned much about the country's diverse geography and climate.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How do the Coast Ranges differ from the Sierra Nevada?


Summary


The United States is made up of 50 states, each with its own capital. Because the country is so large, its geography and climate vary from one part of the country to another. Geographers sometimes divide the country into landform regions.

REVIEW

1.  How do the geography and climate differ as you travel across the 50 states?
2. Write a sentence that includes the terms **landform region** and **environment**.
3. What two states are separated from the others?

CRITICAL THINKING

4.  **ANALYZE SKILL** Why do you think Robert Louis Stevenson wrote about the geography and climate of the United States during his trip?

5.  **Make Flash Cards** Use notecards or take sheets of construction paper and cut them into 50 small cards. On one side of each card write the name of a state and on the other side write the name of its capital. Study the cards and then work with a classmate to quiz each other on state capital names.

6.  **FOCUS SKILL** **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.

Topic 1

The Appalachians are older.

Similar

Topic 2

The Rockies are younger.



Use Latitude and Longitude

► WHY IT MATTERS

The **relative location** of a place is where it is compared to other places on Earth. For example, the Coastal Plain is between the Piedmont and the Atlantic Ocean. But lines of latitude and lines of longitude help you describe the **absolute location**, or exact location, of any place on Earth.

► WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Mapmakers use a system of imaginary lines to form a grid system on maps and globes. The lines that run east and west are the **lines of latitude**. Lines of latitude are also called **parallels** (PAIR•uh•lelz). This is because they are parallel, or always the same distance from each other.

Lines of latitude are measured in degrees north and south of the equator, which is labeled 0° , or zero degrees. The parallels north of the equator are marked *N* for *north latitude*. The parallels south of the equator are marked *S* for *south latitude*.

The lines that run north and south on a map or globe are the **lines of longitude**, or **meridians**. Each meridian runs from the North Pole to the South Pole. Meridians meet at the poles.

The meridian marked 0° is called the prime meridian. Lines of longitude to the west of the prime meridian are marked *W* for *west longitude*. They are in the Western Hemisphere. The meridians to the east of the prime meridian are marked *E* for *east longitude*. They are in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Latitude and Longitude



United States Latitude and Longitude



PRACTICE THE SKILL

The map above shows state capitals in the United States and uses lines of latitude and longitude to give absolute location.

On the left-hand side of the map, find 40°N . At the bottom, find 120°W . Use your fingers to trace these lines to the point where they cross. Carson City, Nevada, near the border of California, is not far from this point. So you can say that Carson City is near 40°N , 120°W .

Use the map to answer these questions.

- 1 Which state capital is nearest to 40°N , 105°W ?

- 2 Which state capital is nearest to 30°N , 85°W ?
- 3 Which state capital is farther north—Salem, Oregon, or Madison, Wisconsin?

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

SKILL Make It Relevant Use latitude and longitude to describe the location of your state's capital city. Write a short paragraph to describe how you found the capital's location.



Practice your map and globe skills with the **GeoSkills CD-ROM**.

Lesson

2

Time

12,000 years ago

PRESENT

about 12,000
years ago

Ancient people
hunt large animals

about 5,000
years ago

Ancient people begin
farming in the Americas

WHAT TO KNOW

How did people first come to live in the Americas?

- ✓ Identify possible explanations of how people came to live in the Americas.
- ✓ Explain how early people in the Americas lived, hunted, and farmed.
- ✓ Understand how changes in the environment affected early peoples' lives.

VOCABULARY

ancestor p. 25

theory p. 25

migration p. 25

artifact p. 26

legend p. 27

generation p. 27

nomad p. 28

agriculture p. 30

culture p. 31

PLACES

Beringia

Clovis



COMPARE AND CONTRAST



California
Standards

HSS 5.1, 5.1.1

Ancient Indians



The time is more than 10,000 years ago and you and your family are busy settling into a new campsite. For many days, your group has been tracking a herd of mammoths, and the adults are hopeful that the hunting will be good here. In the meantime, you work as fast as you can, gathering wild plants to help feed your group. The air is bitterly cold, but you keep warm by gathering the plants quickly. By tomorrow your group will join together in the first hunt, and you hope that it will be a great success.



The Land Bridge Story

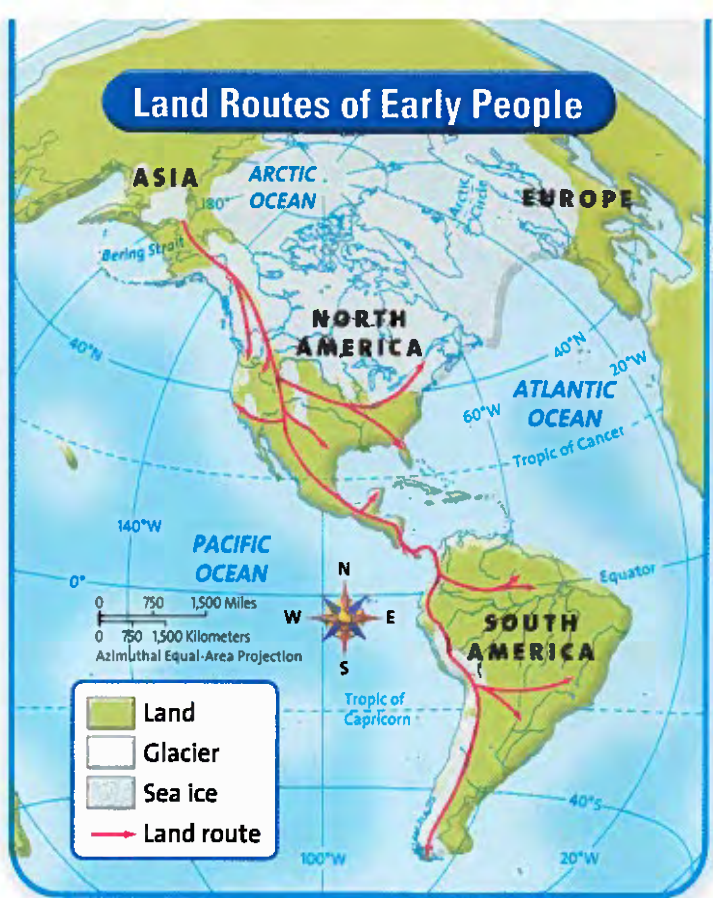
The history of the United States begins with the first people in North America many thousands of years ago. They are the **ancestors**, or early family members, of present-day American Indians. How did these first people come to live in North America and South America?

After many years of study, scientists are still not sure of the answer. However, they do have several possible explanations, or theories. A **theory** is an idea based on study and research.

One theory is that there was once a “bridge” of dry land between the continents of Asia and North America. Scientists call this land bridge **Beringia** (buh•RIN•jee•uh). It was named for the Bering Strait, the narrow body of water that now separates Russia from Alaska.

Scientists who study Earth’s past have found proof that thousands of years ago, there were several Ice Ages, or long periods of freezing cold. During the Ice Ages, huge, slow-moving sheets of ice called glaciers (GLAY•sherz) covered large parts of Earth.

Scientists think that so much of Earth’s water was trapped in glaciers that the level of the oceans fell by as much as



ANALYSIS SKILL Analyze Maps

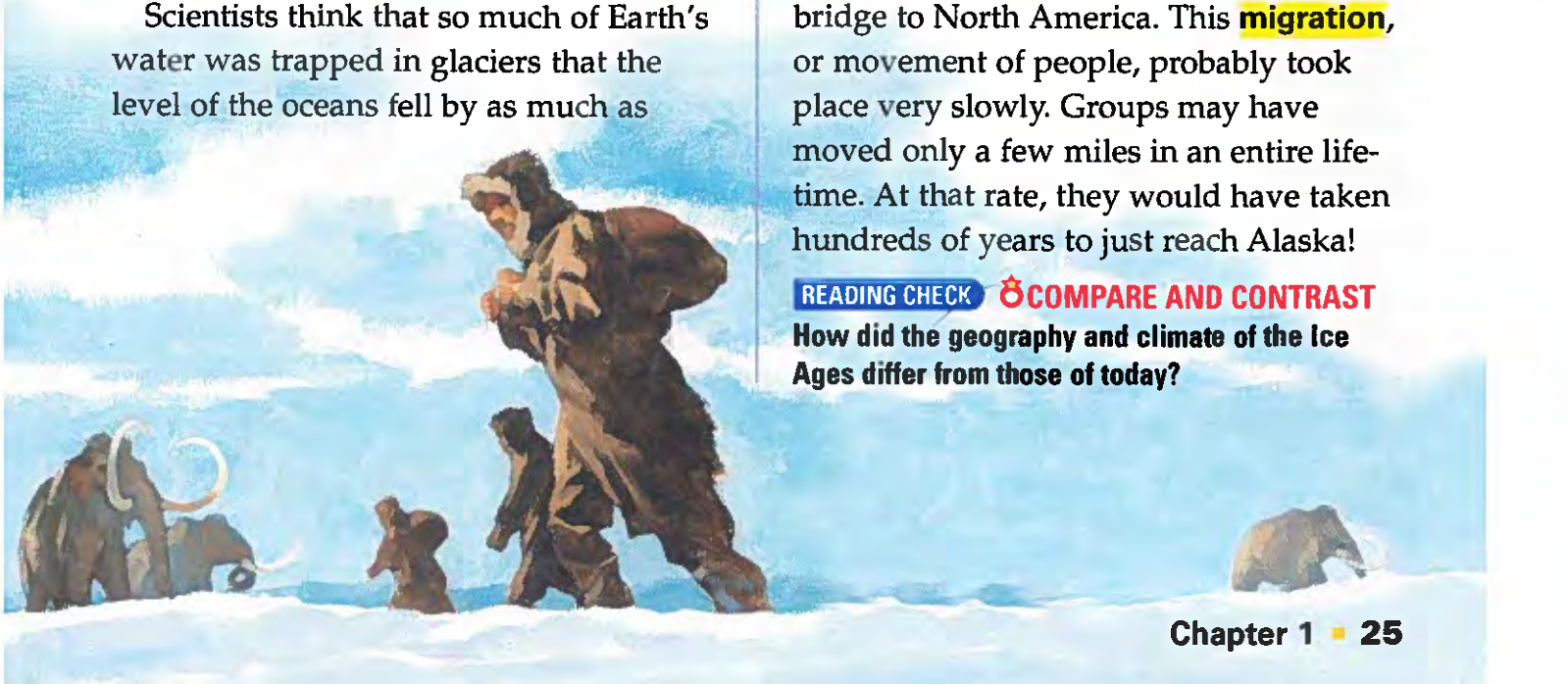
Movement About how many miles is it from Asia to the tip of South America?

350 feet. Because of this, the Earth had more dry land—including Beringia—than it does now.

Many scientists believe that thousands of years ago, groups of hunters and their families walked from Asia across the land bridge to North America. This **migration**, or movement of people, probably took place very slowly. Groups may have moved only a few miles in an entire lifetime. At that rate, they would have taken hundreds of years to just reach Alaska!

READING CHECK COMPARE AND CONTRAST

How did the geography and climate of the Ice Ages differ from those of today?



GEOGRAPHY

San Miguel Island

San Miguel Island, located off the coast of southern California, is one of five islands that make up Channel Island National Park. Many artifacts found there suggest that the people of San Miguel used boats to travel far from shore.



Other Arrival Theories

For many years, scientists thought that people arrived in the Americas about 12,000 years ago. Recently, however, archaeologists have found objects that may be more than 12,000 years old. Archaeologists (ar•kee•AH•luh•jists) are scientists who study the remaining traces of early people.

At Meadowcroft Rock Shelter, in Pennsylvania, some archaeologists have found stone tools that may have been made 14,000 years ago. Objects recently uncovered at Monte Verde (MOHN•tay VAIR•day), in Chile, may be 13,000 years old. These **artifacts**, or objects made by people, include huts, digging sticks, and even a child's footprint.

Some scientists disagree about the dates of certain artifacts, but most now think that people probably arrived in the Americas before 12,000 years ago. If so,

those people may have crossed Beringia during another, earlier Ice Age.

Other discoveries hint that people may have come to the Americas in a different way. They may have traveled by boat. On San Miguel Island, about 25 miles off the coast of California, archaeologists have found artifacts that may date back 10,000 years. Archaeologists know that the people who made the artifacts used boats, because they lived on an island and ate deepwater fish caught far from shore. To catch these fish, they made hooks out of seashells.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How are the theories of migration to the Americas different?

Origin Stories

Ideas about the arrival of the first Americans also come from their descendants. In ancient times, most people passed on their history by memorizing stories. They told these **legends**, or stories handed down from the past, to their children and their grandchildren. As a result, generations of American Indians have learned these stories. A **generation** is the average time between the birth of parents and the birth of their children.

American Indian groups have all used legends to tell about their past. The stories that tell about their origins, or beginnings, are called origin stories.

Some American Indian origin stories explain how the world was made. For example, the Blackfoot tell a story of Old Man the Creator. According to the story, he made the animals and the plants and formed plains and mountains.

► American Indian storytellers keep their culture alive by sharing stories from the past.



► This sculpture represents the Iroquois Tree of Peace.

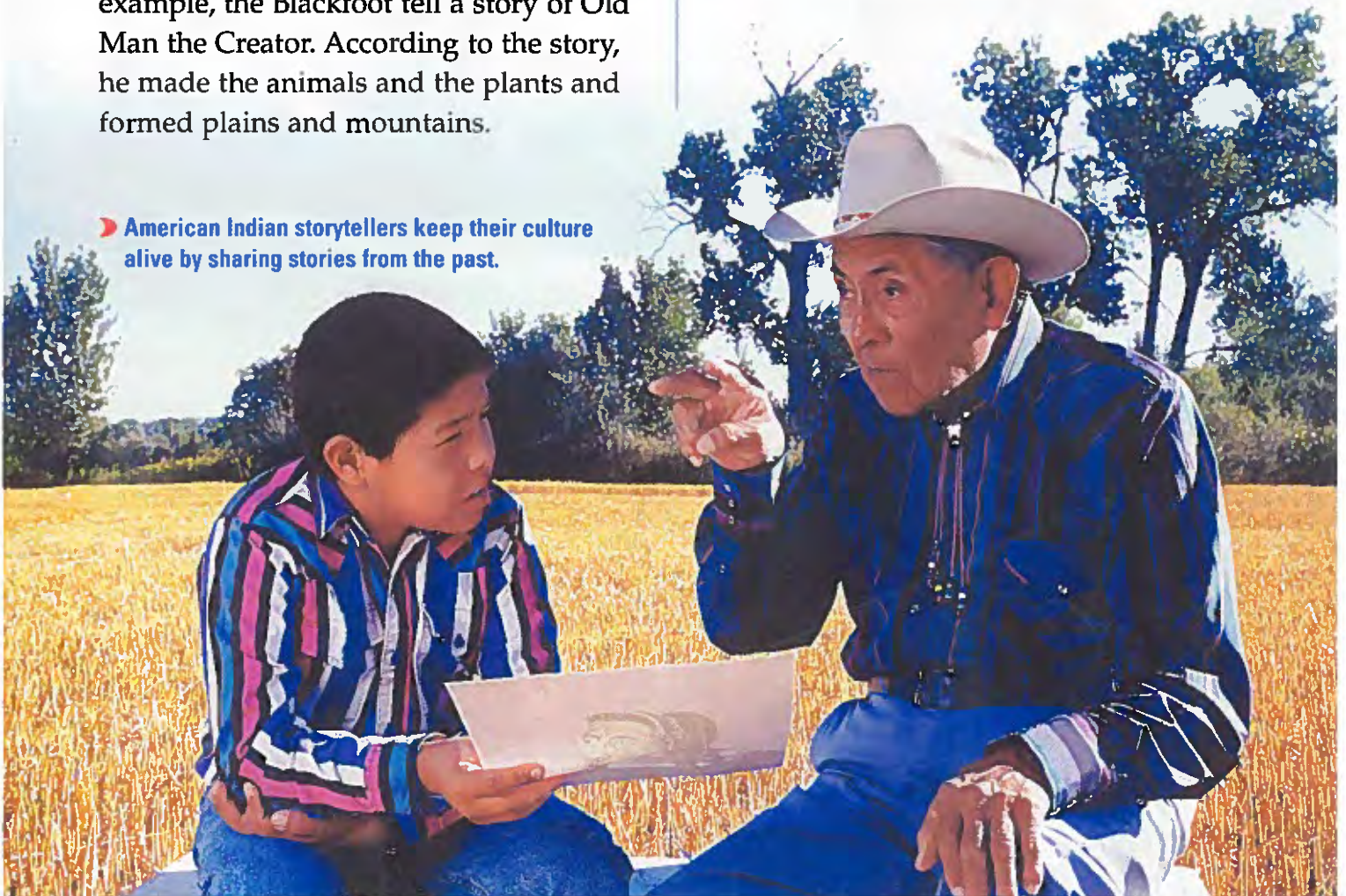
The Huron tell an origin story that begins with water covering Earth. According to the story, land was formed from a tiny bit of soil taken from the claws of a turtle. The turtle had picked up the soil from the bottom of the ocean. Because of this story

and others like it, some American Indians use the name *Turtle Island* to describe the Americas.

No one knows exactly when the first Americans arrived. However, many American Indians believe that their people have always lived in the Americas.

READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

What is another source of ideas about the origin of early people in the Americas?



Early Ways of Life

No matter how the first people got to the Americas, they were most likely **nomads**, or people with no permanent homes. They lived in caves or in tents made of animal skins. They kept moving, following herds of animals that they could hunt. Archaeologists know this because they have found spear points near the bones of ancient animals.

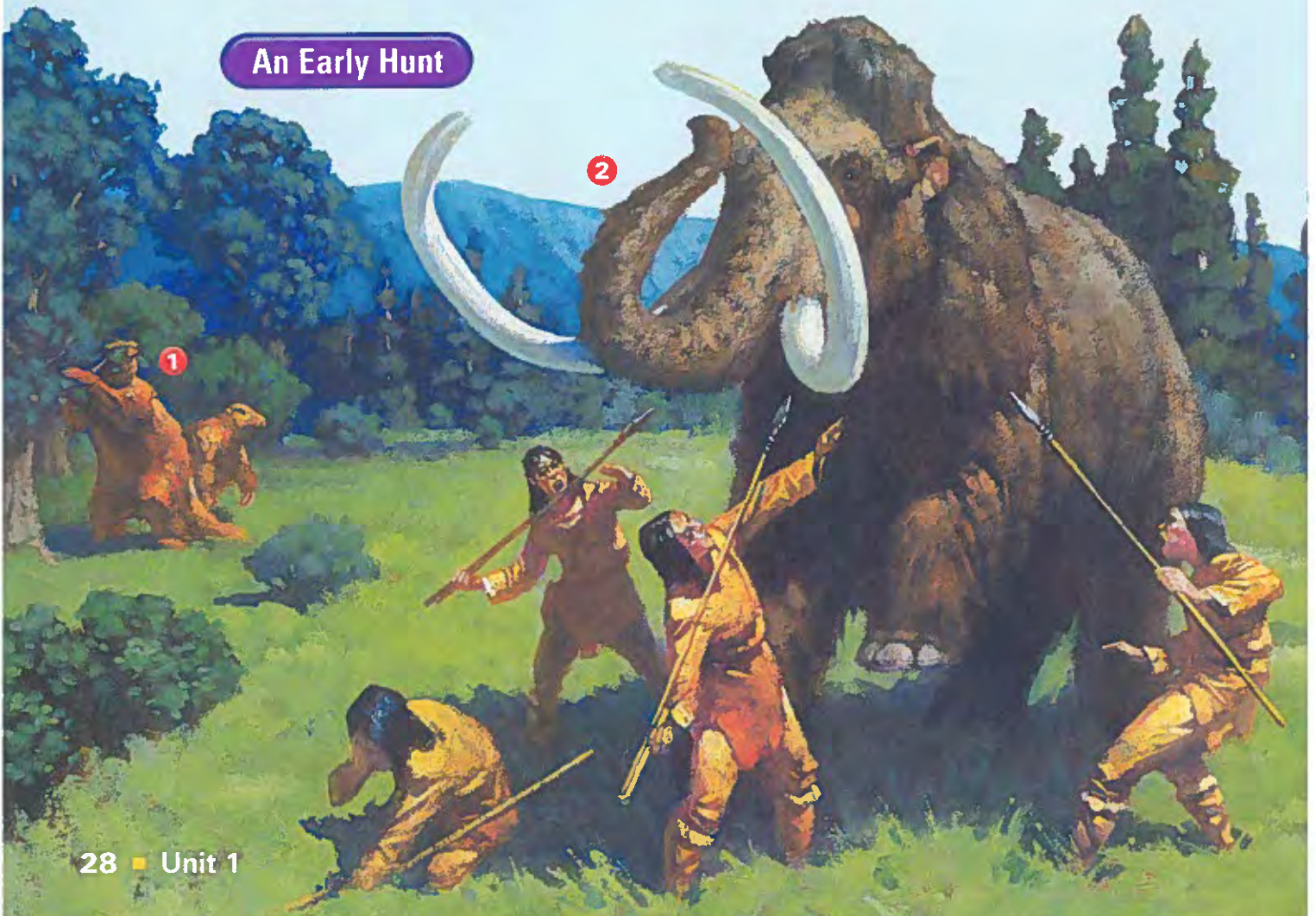
After the last Ice Age ended, the climate of North America was cool and damp. The plants that grew then provided food for very large animals such as giant mastodons and woolly mammoths. These animals looked like huge, hairy elephants. They stood up to 14 feet tall, weighed as much as 10,000 pounds, and often had tusks up to 14 feet long.

The ancient Indians who hunted these giant animals ate the meat and used the fur, skins, and bones to make clothing, shelters, and tools. They also gathered wild foods, such as mushrooms. That is why scientists sometimes refer to these people as hunters and gatherers.

Compared to the huge animals they hunted, the ancient Indians were small and weak. They had to learn to work in groups to kill the animals. In time, they learned to sharpen stones into points and tie them to sturdy wooden sticks.

Various groups of ancient Indians invented different tools to help them hunt. Some made clubs and axes with stone blades. Later, other people invented a new kind of tool called the atlatl (AHT•lah•tuhl), which allowed hunters to throw their spears faster and farther.

An Early Hunt



In order to survive, the ancient Indians had to improve their tools. About the time the atlatl was invented, the ancient Indians came up with a new kind of spear point. Using a bone or a stone, they knocked off flakes, or small thin chips, from flint or other kinds of stone. They flaked the stone until the point was razor sharp. Then they hollowed out the point and fastened it tightly to a wooden spear. The spears were much better hunting weapons than earlier ones.

These deadly spear points are called Clovis points. They are named after the town of Clovis, New Mexico, where archaeologists first found them.



► Clovis point

Slowly, the climate of North America changed, becoming warmer and drier. Most of the plants that the giant animals ate could no longer grow, which may be one reason these animals became extinct, or died out. About 10,000 years ago, most of them disappeared.

People had to find new sources of food, so they began to fish and to hunt smaller animals, such as deer and rabbits. The ancient

Indians made new hunting tools, including the bow and arrow. They also began to eat a greater variety of plants.

READING CHECK **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**

How was life different for the ancient Indians after the giant animals became extinct?

Analyze Illustrations Early people worked together to hunt large animals.

- 1 Giant sloth
 - 2 Woolly mammoth
 - 3 Ancient armadillo
 - 4 Ancient camels
 - 5 Giant short-faced bear
- ◆ Why were many people needed to hunt a woolly mammoth?



A New Way of Life

TIME About 5,000 years ago

PLACE North America

When the ancient Indians gathered more food than they could use right away, they found ways to store it. They used reeds, vines, and strips of wood to make baskets. Later, people learned to make storage containers out of other materials, such as clay.

Over time, some ancient Indians changed their lifeways, or ways of life, even more. They began to plant seeds and to grow food instead of only gathering it. This change was the beginning of **agriculture**, or farming, in the Americas.

Agriculture started at different times in different parts of the world. In the Americas, ancient Indians likely started

farming about 5,000 years ago. Some of the earliest farmers lived in the Tehuacán (tay•wah•KAHN) Valley in central Mexico. In the fertile valley, they grew at least 12 kinds of maize (MAYZ), or corn, as well as avocados, squash, and beans. Maize was the most important crop for many people living in North America. It was grown all across the continent.

One way that farming changed the lives of many of the ancient Indian groups was by giving them a reason to stay in one place for longer periods of time. By about 5,000 years ago, some were building stronger homes and had started villages. Some groups also formed what are now called tribes. A tribe is a group of people who share the same language, land, and leaders.

► Early people worked together to farm.





► Many archaeologists believe that this sole of a shoe and these cave paintings (left) at Pedra Furada, Brazil, are proof that people arrived in the Americas earlier than previously thought.

The climate and natural resources of each area in which they settled affected how the groups lived. Over time, each group came to have its own culture. A **culture** is a way of life that sets a group apart from other groups. These unique cultures can sometimes be pieced together by scientists who study artifacts for clues about earlier lifeways.

READING CHECK GENERALIZE

How did farming change early peoples' lives?

Summary

There are many theories about how people got to the Americas. Climate changes forced early people to learn how to live in new environments. Once people began to farm, they also settled in villages. These early people developed different cultures based partly on where they lived.

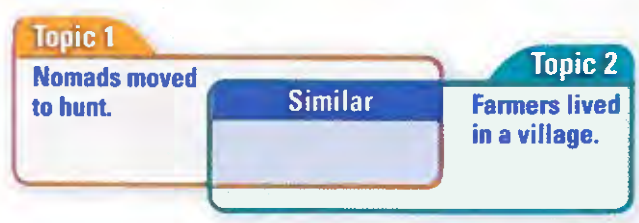
REVIEW

- 1. How did people first come to live in the Americas?
- 2. How are the words **migration** and **nomad** related?
- 3. How did changes in the environment affect large animals?

CRITICAL THINKING

- 4. How did the importance of the Bering Strait's relative location change as the land bridge disappeared?
- 5. Did early people hunt giant animals before or after they started farming?

- 6. **Write a Paragraph** Describe how ancient Indians might have made tools for hunting.
- 7. **COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete the graphic organizer below.





Read Time Lines

► WHY IT MATTERS

An easy way to see relationships between events in history is to look at a **time line**. A time line is a diagram that shows events that took place during a certain period of time. Like a calendar, a time line can help you understand the order of events and the amounts of time between events.

► WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

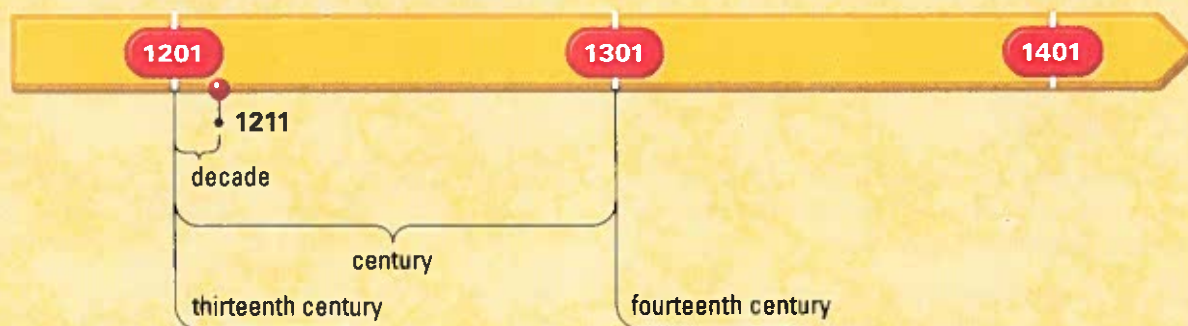
A time line looks like a ruler marked in dates instead of inches. Like inches marked on a ruler, there are dates on a time line that are equally spaced. However, not all time lines look the same or are read in the same way. Most time lines run horizontally, or across the page. But some run vertically, or down the page. Horizontal time lines, like the one shown below, are read from left to right.

The earliest date is on the left end, and the most recent date is on the right end. The time line on page 33 is a vertical time line. It is read from top to bottom. The earliest date is at the top of the time line, and the most recent date is at the bottom.

Time lines can show events that took place during any period of time. Some time lines show events that took place over a **decade**, or a period of 10 years. Others show events that took place over a **century**, or a period of 100 years. Both a decade and a century are labeled on the horizontal time line below. Some time lines show events that took place over a **millennium**, or a period of a thousand years. A millennium is labeled on the vertical time line on page 33.

The vertical time line here shows dates from the ancient past to today. Notice the letters *B.C.* and *A.D.* in the middle of

Horizontal Time Line



the time line. Many people today identify years by whether they took place before or after the birth of Jesus Christ. The years before are labeled *B.C.*, which stands for “before Christ.” Years after the birth of Christ are labeled *A.D.* This stands for the Latin words *Anno Domini* which mean “in the year of the Lord.”

An event that happened in 100 *B.C.* took place 100 years before the birth of Christ. An event that happened in *A.D.* 100 took place 100 years after the birth of Christ. Because every year in modern times is *A.D.*, these letters are often not needed.

You may also see the letters *B.C.E.* or *C.E.* with dates. The abbreviation *B.C.E.* stands for “before the Common Era.” It is sometimes used instead of *B.C.* The abbreviation *C.E.*, which stands for “Common Era,” is sometimes used in place of *A.D.*

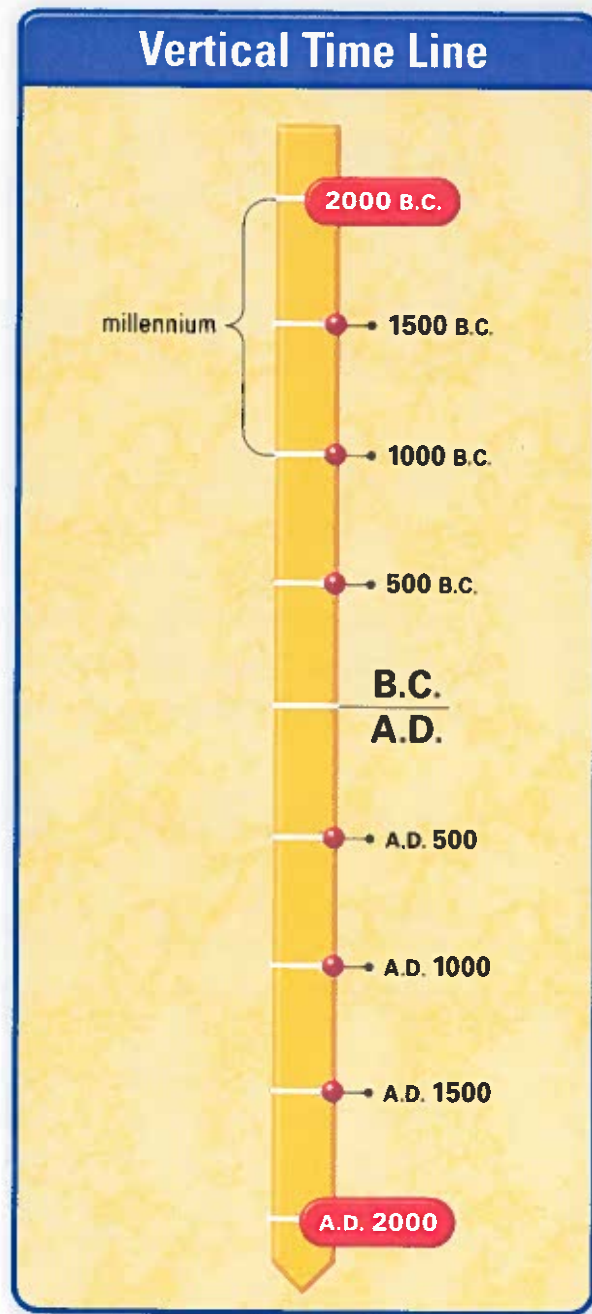
► PRACTICE THE SKILL

Use the horizontal time line on page 32 to answer the following questions.

- 1 How many centuries are shown on this time line?
- 2 What was the first year of the thirteenth century?

Use the vertical time line on this page to answer these questions.

- 3 How many millenniums are shown on this time line?
- 4 Which year came earlier, 1000 *B.C.* or 500 *B.C.*?



► APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

SKILL Make It Relevant Make a time line that shows the last 20 years in 5-year periods. Then mark on your time line important events that have taken place in your own life. Share your time line with other students.

Arrival in the Americas

Since no one is sure how the first people arrived in the Americas, there are many points of view on the subject. Some believe that the first people walked across the Beringia land bridge. Others believe early people may have come by boat across the Pacific Ocean. Some American Indian leaders believe their ancestors have always been in the Americas. Here are different points of view on this much-debated subject.

In Their Own Words

Douglas W. Schwartz, a scientist who believes the first Americans crossed over the Bering Strait

“... Our best evidence supports the view that a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska was the route of entry for the ancestors of the American Indian.”

— from *Clues to America's Past*. National Geographic Society, 1976.



▶ Early people had to travel in groups for safety.

▶ Early boat travel would have required strong boats.





VINE DELORIA, JR.

Vine Deloria, Jr., a professor of Native American Studies

“ . . . A small group of anthropologists have now allowed that Indians, instead of marching . . . over the mythical Bering land bridge, might have come by boat . . . from the Asian continent to North America. ”

— from *Red Earth, White Lies: Native Americans and the Myth of Scientific Fact*. Scribner, 1995.

Luther Standing Bear, Sioux Chief, describing the legend of the Sioux's beginnings

“ Our legends tell us that it was . . . thousands of years ago since the first man sprang from the soil in the midst of the great plains. The story says that one morning long ago a lone man awoke, face to the sun, emerging from the soil. ”

— from *Land of the Spotted Eagle*. University of Nebraska Press, 1978.



LUTHER
STANDING BEAR

It's Your Turn



Analyze Points of View Work with a classmate to summarize the point of view held by each author.

Make It Relevant Explain why it is important to learn about different points of view on a subject.



► Some American Indian sites are more than 10,000 years old.