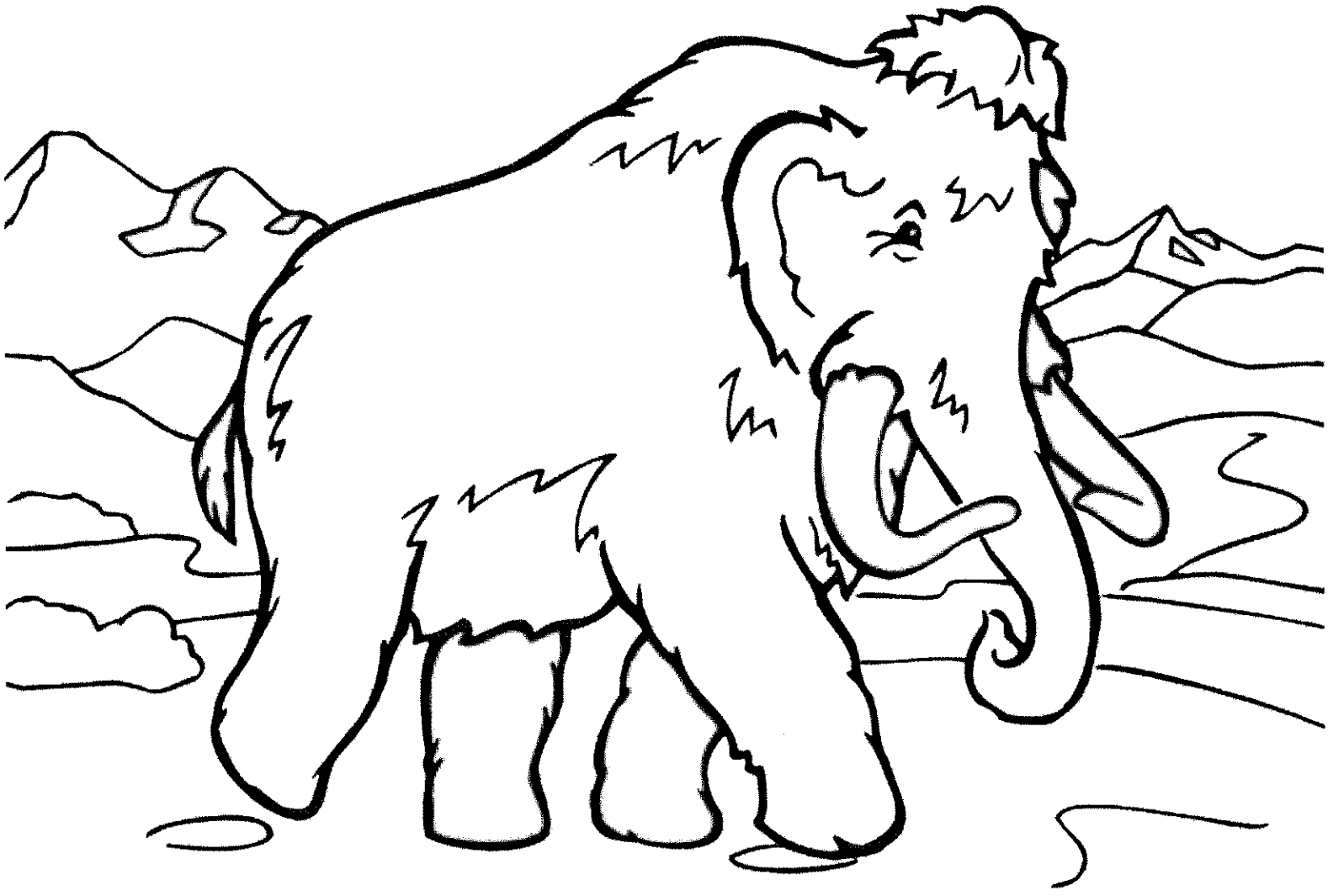
Name_____Period ____HRT_____

LAND AND PEOPLE BEFORE COLUMBUS

Section 1: The First Americans



Pre-Lesson: Timelines

- In order to understand history, you must first understand timelines.
- Timelines are the way teachers, archaeologists, and historians place historical events so they make sense in time order.
- Timelines can use two ways to measure past time:
  * B.C., which stands for "Before Christ",
  * A.D., which is Latin for "Anno Domini", or "In the Year of Our Lord",
  * C.E., or (in the) Common Era,
  * B.C.E., or Before the Common Era.
- Most scientists and historians today use B.C.E. and C.E. out of respect for cultural diversity.

B.C.-Before Christ
B.C.E-Before the Common Era

A.D.-*Anno Domini*-In the Year of Our Lord
C.E. (in the) Common Era

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1000 B.C./B.C.E.

1000 A.D./C.E.

Land and People Before Columbus

Section 1: First Americans

Critical Vocabulary Words

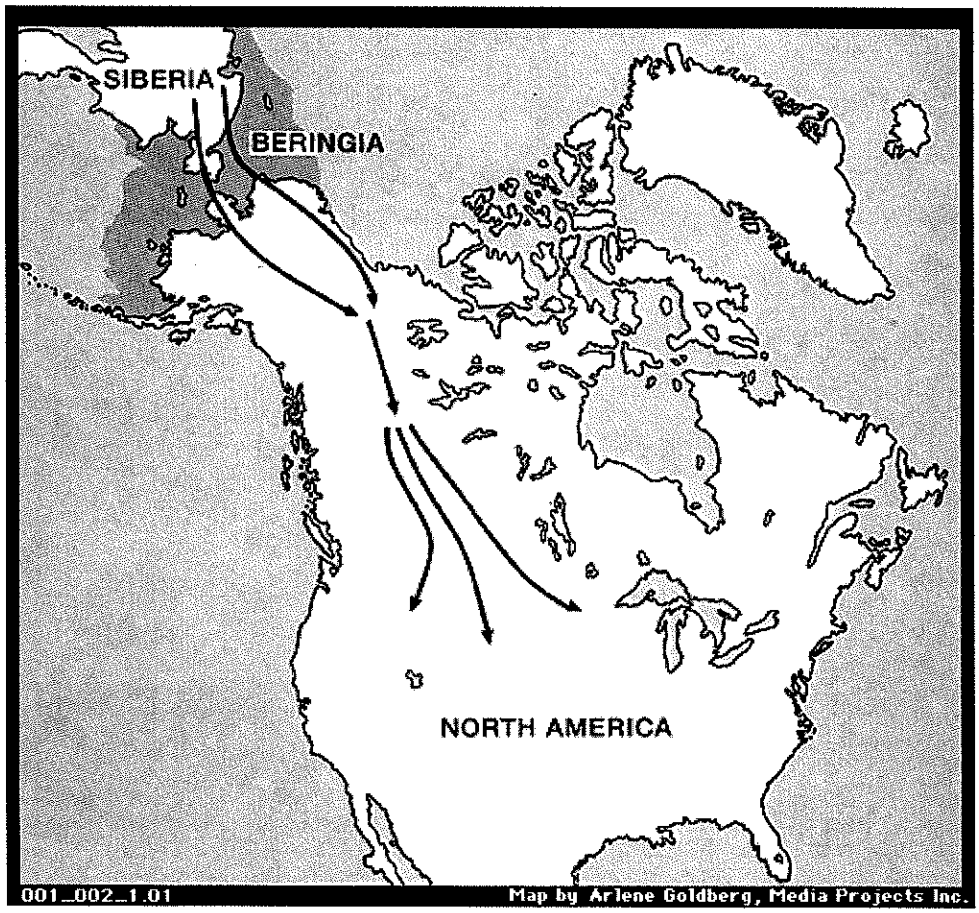
1. **glacier:** huge sheets of ice
2. **band:** a small group of people who work together to go an activity
3. **religion:** belief about God or gods
4. **agriculture:** farming
5. **nomads:** wanderers who have no settled home
6. **culture:** the way of life for a group of people
7. **archaeologists:** scientists who study the cultures of people who lived long ago
8. **pueblo:** a group of adobe houses that the Anasazi lived in
9. **evidence:** proof
10. **migration:** movement of people from one place to another
11. **origin story:** a story that tells of a people's beliefs about the world and their place it
12. **technology:** the use of scientific knowledge or tools to make or do something
13. **extinct:** no longer alive, to die out like a certain type of animal
14. **maize:** corn
15. **tribe:** a group of people made up of many bands who share the same culture and land
16. **specialize:** to work on one job one can do well

17. **civilization:** a culture that has well-developed forms of government, religion, and learning
18. **temple:** places of worship
19. **earthwork:** a mound, or hill of earth, that people have built
20. **artifacts:** objects made by early people.
21. **pyramid:** a building with three or more sides shaped like triangles.
22. **adobe:** a mixture of sandy clay and straw that is dried into bricks.
23. **mesa:** high, flat-topped hills.
24. **drought:** a long dry spell.
25. **cultural diffusion:** the spread of culture from one place to another.
26. **kiva:** special underground rooms used for religious services
27. **theory:** a possible explanation for something
28. **surplus:** more than is needed

Land and People Before Columbus

Section 1: The First Americans

Lesson 1: Over the Land Bridge

- During the last Ice Age, scientists and historians believe Asians called nomads crossed a land bridge that connected Asia to North America in the regions of Siberia and Alaska.
- The nomads were following the large wooly mammoth, in bands of hunting parties.
- They did not realize they were making history in crossing the land bridge. It is now called Beringia, because it is located in what is now called the Bering Strait.
- The nomads migrated all the way down through Canada and North America and through Mexico and South America over time.
- Berengia is no longer there. Scientists believe it has been eroded away by time and weather. Any evidence it existed is gone.
- Scientists and historians base their beliefs about Berengia on the theory of Pangea, which states that all land masses in the world were once connected, then moved away from each other.
- The land masses could be put back together like a puzzle.
- These early people were also called Paleo-Indians.

- Later, changes in the environment had an impact on the lifestyles of those Paleo-Indians who spread across the Americas.
- Some archaeologists have found evidence that Paleo-Indians may have moved to the Americas earlier than 25,000 years ago. Biblical scholars, however, believe this happened no more than 6,000 years ago.
- The descendants of these ancient Americans created origin stories to explain their beliefs about the creation of the world.
- Their religion is an important part of these stories.