

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ancient Americas Reading Guide

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## Section 1

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1. What is a strait? Where is the Bering Strait? How did people get across it in the Ice Age?
2. Why would people wander across a frozen wasteland into North America?
3. What do creation myths explain?
4. Name two ways these myths are passed down?
5. Who were the first Americans to begin farming? What crops did they grow?
6. Why did the Americans not invent the plow? Why did they lack wheels?
7. At first, most Americans used subsistence farming. What does this mean? How did moving away from subsistence farming change their lives?
8. Many of the ancient people are called the Clovis people, named after the spearheads they used. From where did they get the word "Clovis?"

## Section 2

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9. How did geography affect the peoples of western North America?
10. What was the purpose of totem poles?
11. What is a potlatch? What was the purpose of the potlatch?
12. How did the Hohokam adapt to their harsh environment?
13. According to Zuni myth, how did corn become fit for humans to eat?
14. Because they had no horses yet, how did the Great Plains peoples kill buffalo?
15. Name at least three uses for buffalo.
16. How did the Plains peoples move their camps without horses?

17. How did the activities of Native children help prepare them for adulthood?
18. Draw a small map that shows the location of the Eastern Woodlands.
19. Name two things we can learn from Hopewell burial mounds.
20. What was at the center of the Mississippian village?

### **Section 3**

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21. How do we know that the Olmec were fairly advanced?
22. The Mayan writing system is one of the most similar to ours in ancient America. What do archaeologists call their writing? (Hint: it is in quotation marks)
23. How did the ancient Maya gather their astronomical data?
24. Why did the Mayan people flee the cities (list at least two possibilities)?
25. What class of people ruled the Toltec?
26. Who was Quetzalcoatl?
27. Around 1200 AD the Aztec showed up. From where did they come?
28. What god did the Aztec worship? What did they have to do to worship this god?
29. Why were the Aztec ultimately weakened?
30. What was Cuzco?
31. How did the Inca attempt to unify the people (by limiting regional differences)?
32. What was quipu? How is it different than other "writing" we've learned about?
33. Who was Juanita? Why do they think she died?