CHAPTER 1 ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES
For each term or name below, write a sentence explaining its significance.
1. nomadic
2. Aztec
3. Iroquois
4. division of labor
5. Islam
6. plantation
7. Renaissance
8. Reformation
9. Christopher Columbus
10. colonization

MAIN IDEAS
Use your notes and the information in the chapter to answer the following questions.

Peopling the Americas (pages 4–7)
1. What theories explain when and how the first people arrived in the Americas?
2. Which ancient societies flourished in the region now occupied by the United States?

North American Societies Around 1492 (pages 8–13)
3. Why did Native American societies develop different cultural traditions in different regions?
4. Describe the social organization of Native American groups.

West African Societies Around 1492 (pages 14–19)
5. Why was Timbuktu such an important city?
6. Which religion did traders from North Africa bring with them to West Africa?

European Societies Around 1492 (pages 20–25)
7. How did religion reinforce the social hierarchy of European societies?
8. How did the Reformation deepen rivalries between European nations?

Transatlantic Encounters (pages 26–31)
9. What impact did the Columbian Exchange have on people’s lives throughout the world?
10. Why did the Spanish want to colonize the Americas?

CRITICAL THINKING
1. USING YOUR NOTES In a web like the one shown, describe how trade and commerce affected each region and time period shown.

2. DEVELOPING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE How do you think the contrasting cultural attitudes to land ownership might have affected the relationship between Europeans and Native Americans?
Use the quotation below and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer questions 1 and 2.

“The earth is our mother. The sky is our father.' This concept of nature . . . is at the center of the Native American world view . . . . The Native American’s attitudes toward this landscape have been formulated over a long period of time, a span that reaches back to the end of the Ice Age . . . . [T]he Indian has assumed a deep ethical regard for the earth and sky, a reverence for the natural world. . . . It is this ancient ethic of the Native American that must shape our efforts to preserve the earth and the life upon and within it.”


1. N. Scott Momaday refers to the Ice Age because—
   A Native Americans’ attitudes to the land were formed during the Ice Age.
   B the landscape of the Americas took its present shape during the last Ice Age.
   C that was when European immigrants first arrived in the Americas.
   D he wants to show how long Native Americans have been living in the Americas.

2. In this passage, Momaday describes the “ancient ethic”—Native American reverence for the land—in order to —
   F contrast it with modern attitudes.
   G dismiss it as unimportant.
   H present it as a quaint, old-fashioned idea.
   J suggest that European Americans will never accept it.

3. Why did the Spanish begin importing enslaved Africans?
   A The Spanish were weakened by disease and could not work.
   B There was a labor shortage in the Americas.
   C They wanted to compete with the British colonies.
   D The Spanish wanted colonies in Africa.

4. Unlike some West African and Native American societies at the time, European societies in the 1400s had not developed —
   F matrilineal kinship systems.
   G systems of mathematics and astronomy.
   H a centralized religious authority.
   J agriculture.

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. [INTERACT WITH HISTORY]

Recall your discussion of the question on page 3:

How will the arrival of a strange people change your way of life?

Now that you know how Native Americans’ way of life was changed by the arrival of the Europeans, discuss the following question: Would you have resisted or helped the Europeans if you had been a Native American during the days of European colonization?

2. [LEARNING FROM MEDIA]

Use the CD-ROM Electronic Library of Primary Sources or your library resources to read excerpts from Cabeza de Vaca’s La Relación or other early explorers’ journals.

- After reading, list the assumptions and conclusions drawn by the writer about the ethnic group he encountered.
- Envision the encounter between groups from the point of view of another group (such as Native Americans). Write a journal entry describing the other group’s physical appearance and behavior from that point of view.