**The Paleo- Indians:**

**In The Beginning**

* The first “American” Indians
	+ Arrived about 12,000 – 14,000 years ago.
* Originally nomadic Asian (mongoloid) hunters who crossed into North America via a 600 mile –wide land bridge connecting Asia with North America in the area of the Bering Straight (Beringia).
* These hunters crossed the land bridge in pursuit of megafauna- large mammals of the era which included woolly mammoths, giant bison, mastodon, giant land sloth, and small animals such as miniature horses and camels.
* When the Ice Age ended, Beringia became covered with water- thus isolating the inhabitants of the Americas.
* By 8,000 B.C. the Paleo- Indians had peopled the North and South America continents to the tip of South America.
* About 9,000 B.C. the Clovis point – a superior spear head- appeared in what is today the southwestern United States.
* As the climate began to change and as use of the clovis point spread, the big game and small horses died off- the largest animals left on the continents were the bear, bison, and moose.

**The Archaic Period:**

* Considered the 2nd period of human occupation of the Americas.
* 8,000- 1,000 B.C.
* Archaic people typically lived in groups (bands) of 50-150 people.
* Nomadic people- hunters/ gathers- seasonal foods important- hickory nuts, acorns, persimmons, blackberries, etc – deer, raccoons, squirrels, rabbits, etc.
* Many Archaic people located themselves near streams and rivers- fish, mussels, etc. (Shell mounds emerge- some over 15 ft. high.)
* The atlatl (spear thrower) was developed as to improve hunting.
* this improved range and velocity.
* New technologies emerge- grinding stone for weapons and tools.
* Projectile Points become more varied and sophisticated.
* Personal items such as stone pipes and cooking vessels emerge.
* Copper is first used by Native Americans during this period.
* Russell Cave in Doran’s Cove (Bridgeport) in Jackson County was used for over 10,000 years by Paleo- Indians and their descendants.
* It is believed that Native Americans were making use of this cave as early as 9,000 years ago.

**The Woodland Period:**

* Period of human history in the Americas between the Archaic and Mississippian Periods.
* Named for the eastern woodlands of North America.
* 300 B.C.- 1,000 A.D.
* This period is considered a developmental stage without any massive changes in a short time but instead having a continuous development in tools, textiles and leather, farming, and shelter construction.
* Late in the period, Native Americans begin to use bows and arrows and blowguns in addition to spears and atlatls.
* Native Americans of this period began to construct permanent homes.
* Native American “towns” first began to appear.
* Earthen mounds were first raised over graves.
* Late in this period “Three Sisters” farming was introduced.
* The “three sisters” are corn (maize), beans, and squash.
	+ these crops became the staple crops for Native Americans throughout the Southeast and for other farming societies in the Southwest and Northeast.
	+ Native Americans also raised peppers, melons, amaranth, grapes, hemp, etc.

**The Mississippian Period:**

**The “Mound Builders”**

* Appeared 700 to 900 A.D.
* Peaked around 1300 A.D.
* Named for the Mississippi River as Native Americans of this period often located their towns near rivers- the Mississippi, Tennessee, Cumberland, and Warrior, and many others.

* The Native Americans of this period are known for the huge earthen mounds which they build as foundations for temples, homes for leaders, religious ceremony, burials, etc.
* There are many examples of these mounds throughout the Southeast including many in Alabama.
* At its height, the town at Moundville was home to over 3,000 people- making it the second largest Indian town north of present- day Mexico.

**Ancient Civilizations of the American Southwest:**

 **What did the prehistoric peoples of the American Southwest experience in their various environments?**

* Diverse habitats
* Changing environmental aspects
* Various human adaptations to the land
* Depletion of some resources
* Cultural contacts

 **Diverse habitats:**

* Arizona, and the American Southwest as a whole, is such a remarkable area with so many different geographic locations.
* Because the people of the region were no longer nomadic, they needed to make the best use of resources within their immediate region.
* The market place of variation…

**Changing environmental aspects:**

* Over time all things change, including the natural world around us.
* The Southwest had been a region of somewhat greater moisture than we know today.
* The cultures needed to adapt to climates altering over the decades. How did they do this?

**Various human adaptations to the land:**

* A nomadic lifestyle transitions to a sedentary way of life.
* An agricultural economy gradually moves northward.
* Topography and temperature determines the economy to a great extent.
* A sedentary style leads to greater artistic expression. How did art impact their personal and environmental nature?

 **Depletion of some resources:**

* The hunter-gatherer lifeway has an impact on the megafauna of the region.
* Changing climate brings about a transition (and chain reaction) in the plant life which then affects the animal life, which then…
* How aware were the sedentary cultures to changes taking place around them?

 **Cultural contacts:**

* When different groups come in contact with one another, *everyone* is affected.
* Migration of some people would bring about an awareness of various outlooks.
* Cultural contacts should not necessarily infer violent confrontation.
* Which present day Native American cultural groups claim a connection to ancestral peoples that occupied the Southwest?

**Who were the Anasazi?:**

* **Also known as the Hisatsinom**
* Lived in the 4 Corners region of the Southwest
* Renowned for their architecture above all other characteristics
* A somewhat cooler climate brings about a different pattern of life.
* Landscape affects the residence of a people.
* Besides the style of architecture there were many other aspects to their existence.

**Legacy of the Anasazi/Hisatsinom:**

* Although there was a long presence of the culture in the region, the highpoint of the Anasazi/Hisatsinom lasted for less than 100 years.
* Early origins of the Hopi and Pueblo cultural groups

**Who were the Hohokam?**

* How does their name represent something about the essence of their legacy?
* The ancient peoples of our own specific portion of the Southwest
* Intensive agriculturalists
* As with the other major cultural groups in the Southwest, an outgrowth of the Desert Culture (made the most of their situation)
* First culture in the region to practice the large scale agriculture tradition with beans, corn, & squash
* Irrigation canals 🡪 Phoenix?

**Legacy of the Hohokam:**

* Responded in an impressive way to Mesoamerican influences
* Wide ranging influence beyond their primary range
* Early origins of the Pima and Tohono O’odham cultural groups

**Who were the Mogollon?:**

* Although, of course, there was development of the culture over time, it was not as sophisticated as neighboring cultures.
* In the Mogollon cultural region, inhabitants occupied some of the most geologically and ecologically diverse landscape in the United States.

**Legacy of the Mogollon:**

* The classic late period of the Mogollon culture is known as Mimbres. Profound changes occurred for the Mogollon during this last of five phases. Why might this have happened?
* The descendants of the Mogollon are thought to be the Zuni and Acoma cultures.

**Who were the Patayan, Salado and Sinagua?**

* These were three cultural groups that, while not as large as the groups previously mentioned, had an overlapping influence within the region of what we know as Arizona today.
* What is impressive is the issue of cultural contact as demonstrated by each of these groups with other entities.

**The Significance of Paleo Indians in the Southwest:**

* A vivid reminder that we were not here first!
* The dynamics and diversity of these earlier civilizations set the stage for later cultures.
* What lessons can we learn from the experiences passed down through the ages?