

# Globe Skills Lesson 1

## Some Early American Cultures - Grade 6+

**Skills used**            Latitude & Longitude  
                                Using scale to measure distance  
                                Using directions  
                                Critical thinking  
                                Using Map legends

**Vocabulary**            civilizations, culture

**Materials Needed**        Globe in Horizon Ring Mounting

### Lesson

Find and circle Mexico City, Mexico at 20°N/99°W on your globe. Mexico City occupies the former site of the Aztec capital Tenochtitlán. Mexico City lies at the southern end of the central Valley of Mexico. What is the land elevation of Mexico City? (1.) \_\_\_\_\_  
How far is the city from the equator? (2.) \_\_\_\_\_

Now place a small "X" on your globe at 39°N/90°W. This is the location of the city of St. Louis, Missouri. St. Louis is near a Mound Builders culture site that was called Cahokia. What is the land elevation of this area? (3.) \_\_\_\_\_ How far is the area from the equator? (4.) \_\_\_\_\_

The average July temperature in Mexico City is 63 degrees Fahrenheit while the average July temperature in St. Louis is 79 degrees Fahrenheit. Why do you think the summers are cooler in Mexico City than in St. Louis even though St. Louis is twice as far from the equator? (5.) \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the temperature differences, the area in and around Tenochtitlán was much drier, and it had fewer trees and forest than the area around Cahokia. Discuss with your classmates how these differences would have influenced the types of **civilizations** that developed at these two North American sites. Consider such things as homes, clothing, foods, farming techniques, and other everyday activities.

Now circle the Four Corners location on your globe. This location is found at 37°N/109°W and it is the only place in the United States where a person can stand in one spot and touch four different states at the same time. Near Four Corners are the sites of the ancient Anasazi cities of Pueblo Bonito and Mesa Verde. What is the land elevation in this area? (6.) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Do you think the Anasazi culture would have been more like the

Aztec culture or the culture of the Mound Builders? (7.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Why? (8.) \_\_\_\_\_

Descendants of the Anasazi, the Mayas, the Aztecs, the Incas, and the Mound Builders, made up just a few of the many **culture** groups that occupied the western hemisphere at the beginning of the 15th century (1400 A.D.). Though there were millions of people living in the Americas, their existence was totally unknown to most of the inhabitants in the Eastern Hemisphere