

Moving to the Americas

The Americas are full of people from many different cultural backgrounds (originally from different countries with different traditions and languages). Certain periods in history have affected how society has developed over the years.

In ancient times

The **indigenous people** of the Americas were divided into many tribes, such as the Inuit in Canada, the Quechua in South America, and the Powhatan in what is now the USA.

The Powhatan Tribe

The Powhatan tribe lived a simple lifestyle. They lived in small round houses called wigwams, or in larger longhouses. They hunted and grew crops, such as beans and squash. They also fished using canoes made from hollowed-out tree trunks.



Some very developed **civilisations** also formed, such as the Aztec and the Inca...

The Inca

The Inca empire stretched all the way from Ecuador to Chile. The Inca were clever engineers. They worked out smart ways of building cities and watering their crops. The most famous city is Machu Picchu in Peru. Parts of it are still standing because it was built so well.



European invasion

In 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the Caribbean. He claimed the land for Spain. Soon after, Spain and Portugal set up **colonies** all over Central and South America.

In the 1600s, Britain, France, and the Netherlands successfully set up colonies. Eventually, much of the Americas was under control of European governments.

Many Europeans migrated (moved) to the Americas and took land from the indigenous people, leading to wars. They also brought new diseases with them to the Americas, which they passed on to the tribes. Millions of indigenous people were killed by the fighting and disease.

