**GUIDED READING EXERCISE**

**Chapter 1—Understanding Ancient America, Before 1492**

* **How did ancient North American peoples shape the history of the continent before the arrival of Europeans in 1492?**

***Download and save this document so you can return to it to take notes and later use it for studying.*** *As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind yourself of how ancient North American peoples shaped the history of the continent before 1492. If you do not find descriptions of a culture's impact on the environment, or its agricultural, technological, social/cultural, or economic developments, then leave that section blank. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure you place quotation marks around the copied material; if you are able to describe the impact in your own words, however, you should do so.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Native culture** | **Environmental impact** | **Agricultural/ technological advancements** | **Social/cultural systems** | **Trade/ economics** |
| **Great Plains hunters** |  |  |  |  |
| **Great Basin** |  |  |  |  |
| **Pacific Coast** |  |  |  |  |
| **Eastern woodlands** |  |  |  |  |
| **Southwestern** |  |  |  |  |
| **Mississippians** |  |  |  |  |
| **Mexica** |  |  |  |  |

*After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay that answers the following question:*

* **How did ancient North American peoples shape the history of the continent before the arrival of Europeans in 1492?**

*Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. When thinking about how to organize this essay, you might want to consider what ancient Native American cultures shared and what was distinctive to specific societies. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.*