Name _____ Date _____

Lesson 1 Summary

Use with pages 54–57.

Lesson 1: Migration to the Americas

Vocabulary

Ice Age a long period of extreme cold

glacier a thick sheet of ice

migrate to move

theory an explanation for something

artifact an object that someone made in the past

archaeologist a person who studies artifacts to learn how people lived long ago

Moving into the Americas

About 20,000 years ago, Earth was very cold. This period is called the **Ice Age.** During the Ice Age, sheets of ice called **glaciers** formed. A large part of Earth was frozen under glaciers. The Bering Strait is a narrow body of water between Asia and North America. During the Ice Age, the Bering Strait became shallower. Land under the water was uncovered. This land formed a bridge between Asia and North America. Some people have a **theory,** or explanation, about how people first came to the Americas. Their theory is that hunters from Asia followed animals across the bridge to the Americas. Other people have a different theory. They think that people may have **migrated,** or moved, to the Americas by boat.

Ways of Life

The first people to come to the Americas lived in groups. Their main job was hunting. They killed animals such as mammoths and ate their meat. They used animal bones and skin to make tools, clothing, and shelter. Stone was also used to make tools. We have learned about these people through their **artifacts.** Artifacts are objects that were made a long time ago. People called **archaeologists** study the artifacts. They develop theories about how early people lived from these clues.

Changing Way of Life

About 10,000 years ago, the Ice Age ended. Earth's climate became warmer. Some of the bigger animals died out. The people then had to hunt smaller animals. They also gathered wild grains, root vegetables, berries, and nuts. About 7,000 years ago, these early Americans learned how to plant seeds and grow food. Farming let them settle in one place. They formed communities.

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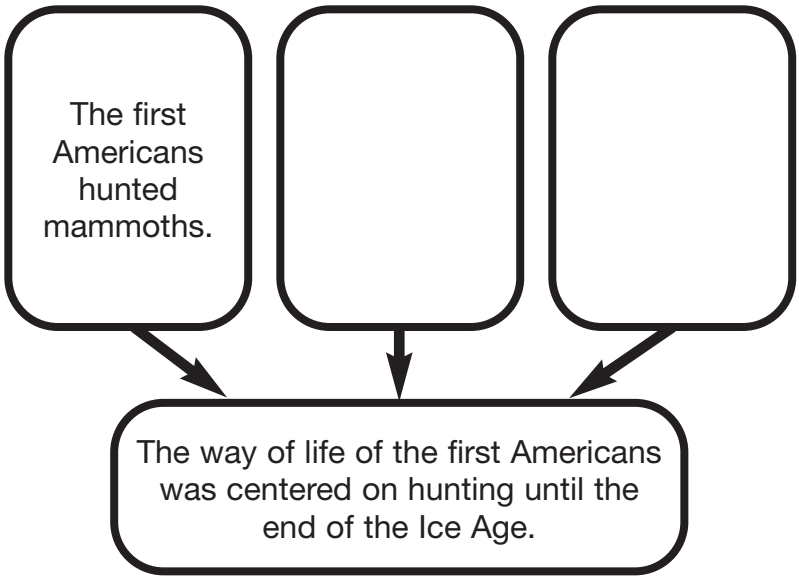
Lesson 1: Review

1. **Summarize** Fill in the missing details from this lesson that support the summary.



2. Why do some scholars think people migrated from Asia to North America during the Ice Age?

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3. How did the first Americans live during the Ice Age?

_____

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4. Why did hunters have to find new ways to get food when Earth's climate began to get warmer?

_____

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5. **Critical Thinking:** ***Draw Conclusions*** How do you think the early people discovered how to grow food?

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