


Exploring The Field

Chaperone Guide

SOCIETIES OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS

Grade Level	Ideal for 9 th -12 th grade Appropriate for ages 12-18	
Exhibition	<i>The Ancient Americas</i>	
Time	1 hour	

Overview

In this exploration, students will travel through ***The Ancient Americas*** exhibition and observe six different types of societies that developed in response to specific environmental conditions. Students will observe and describe the tools, food, and homes unique to each society.

Guiding Question

How have groups of people formed different societies in order to meet their survival needs?

Key Words

Community - a group of people who interact with one another

Descendant - a person or animal that is related to a specific ancestor; an offspring

Environment - the surrounding physical and biological conditions

Indigenous - native to a particular place or region

Society - an organized community that shares traditions and values

Connections to Standards

Illinois State Standards for Social Sciences

18.A.4: Analyze the influence of cultural factors including customs, traditions, language, media, art, and architecture in developing pluralistic societies.

16.E.5a: Analyze how technological and scientific developments have affected human productivity, human comfort and then environment.

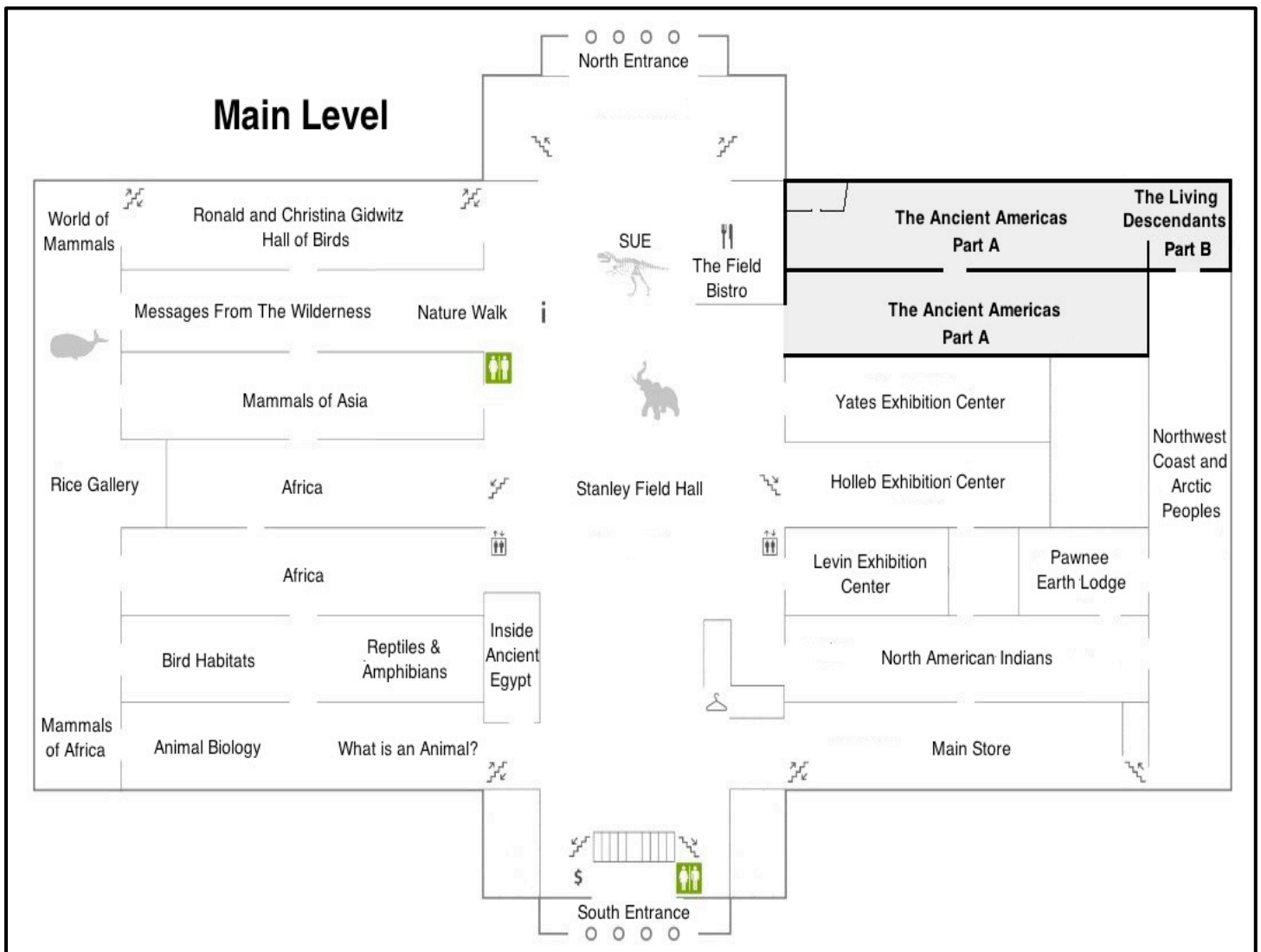
Trip Tip: When students first enter an exhibition, encourage them to look around freely before asking them to concentrate on completing this guide. Becoming familiar with their learning space will help students focus.

SOCIETIES OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS Chaperone Guide Map

Map

Exhibition:

The Ancient Americas (Main Level)



If you have extra time, visit these related exhibitions:

North American Indians (Main Level)

Northwest Coast and Arctic Peoples (Main Level)

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SOCIETIES OF THE ANCIENT AMERICAS Student Guide

NAME _____

Think (before you explore)

Think about the traditions and values of the society you live in. How do we obtain food? What types of homes do we live in? What holidays do we celebrate? What personal characteristics do we value?

At The Field Museum you will observe artifacts from different Ancient American societies.

Observe and Explain (in the exhibition) – Part A

Travel to the **The Ancient Americas** exhibition located on the **Main Level**. Choose one topic to observe from the following list: **tools**, **food**, or **homes**. As you walk through each section of the exhibition, make observations of the illustrations and artifacts related to your topic and make at least three statements to describe your chosen topic in the chart below.

Topic (circle one): Food Tools Homes	
Society	Statements to describe your topic
Ice Age Americans Clovis Peoples	1. 2. 3.
Innovative Hunter-Gatherers Peoples of Coastal California, Peru, and Eastern US	1. 2. 3.
Farming Villagers Early Puebloans	1. 2. 3.
Powerful Leaders Hopewell, Mississippian, Taírona	1. 2. 3.
Rulers and Citizens Zapotec, Maya, Moche, Wari, Nazca	1. 2. 3.
Empire Builders Aztec, Inca	1. 2. 3.

Trip Tip: Before you begin, find a bench or a spot on the floor. Give students an overview of this activity and ask them the **Think** questions.

Trip Tip: This exhibition is divided into six sections that depict examples of six different societies. Students will walk through the sections in the order of the societies listed on the left. Encourage students to complete an entire row before moving on to the next section.

Trip Tip: Review the key words on page 1 of this guide and discuss the differences between a society and a community.

Trip Tip: It may be helpful for some groups to do the first row together as an example.

Guiding Question: How does the structure of a society affect how an individual views the world?

Trip Tip: It is important to note that the order of the exhibition does not depict progression in time. Rather, each type of society developed in response to specific environment conditions.

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Observe and Explain (in the exhibition) – Part B

Find the **Living Descendants** section, the last section of *The Ancient Americas* exhibition. Sit down and watch the video for a few minutes. Describe one tradition the living descendants of indigenous people continue to practice today.

Question	Response
Describe the tradition that you observed.	
Why do you think living descendants continue to practice this tradition today?	
Based on what you saw in the video, what do you think the people who practice this tradition believe and value?	

Share and Compare (after you explore)

Pick two societies that you observed today. Disregarding time and location imagine that people from these two societies came into contact with each other. How would the two societies interact? What could they learn from each other? What goods and services could they trade? Where might conflicts arise?

Location Tip: The **Living Descendants** video gallery is located just past the stairs at the end of the exhibition. This section has curved benches where students may sit.

Guiding Question: Did you see any artifacts in the exhibition that were related to the tradition in the video?

Guiding Question: Are there any practices in your community that are similar?

Trip Tip: If you have extra time, ask students to share a short summary of the tradition that they wrote about.

Trip Tip: Encourage the students to be as creative as they would like. The **Share and Compare** space offers the opportunity to imagine what it would be like for two diverse groups of people to come together.

Trip Tip: Find a quiet spot in the Museum to discuss the **Share and Compare** ideas or ask students to write answers to these questions when they return to school.

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Student Guide

NAME _____

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