The New World
Prehistory to 1492

- American Indians (Pre-1492)
  - Common misconceptions:
    - Primitive
    - Nomadic
    - “One with nature”
    - Hunter-gatherers
    - Teepees & “mud huts”
  - Only approx. 15% of the American Indians at the time were actually like this
  - Some (approx. 35%) actually had permanent homes (stone temples/tombs), farmed, lived in paved cities, etc.
  - A majority were born in one place & stayed there, lived in small villages, farmed crops, played sports, etc.

Average life expectancy of American Indians during this Old World time was longer than the Europeans at the time.

- Most of our current place names (Mississippi, Alabama, etc.) originate from the language of the American Indians
- Origination of Texas name:
  - Mexicans meet with the local Indians, who were either named “Tejas” or tried to say they were “Tejas” (aka “friends”)
- Reason for locations of major cities in TX
  - San Antonio, El Paso:
    - Mission settlements among Indians
  - Fort Worth:
    - Originally a fort
    - City developed
  - Nacogdoches:
    - Used to be a cattle city
    - The people left, leaving fertile, flat, cleared land

- Environmental Determinism: The environment determines history & what will happen, not the humans’ decision-making; based on environment conditions
  - This idea may work better for animals, such as tigers, but humans are too adaptable & have the capability to change the environment, develop technology, etc.

- Early Humans
  - Approx. 100k years ago...
    - Humans begin to set themselves apart from other animals
      - Forming complex speech