• Historians believe that these shapes were religious signs or territorial tribes
  o Native American tribe such as Creeks, Choctaws, and Natchez trace back their lineage to The Mound Builders
• The Mound Builders established large settlements with trade networks, roads, and social/political structures
  o Groups of Mound Builders settled in the Ohio Valley, Oklahoma, and along banks of the Mississippi River
  o Much like the Indus, Babylonian, and Egyptian cyclization’s American civilizations formed sophisticated irrigation systems to water their crops (especially corn)
  o The Anasazi created complex cities using backed mud and straw. Some of the structures wore four or five stories high. In addition, they developed rows and lays of terraced gardens for farming and easy irrigation.
• One of the most power civilization the Iroquois Confederacy was established in the Northeast region of modern United States
• The Iroquois Confederacy was a group of semi-independent tribes and groups that relied on each other for economic, political, military, and cultural support.
  o Iroquois Confederacy: included five major “Indian” nations or tribes; the Seneca, the Oneida, the Onondaga, the Cayuga, and the Mohawk.
  o Support from each other and advancement in farming and irrigating techniques allowed Iroquois Confederacy to accumulate large quantities of food surplus that could be stored for long periods
    ▪ Food surplus helped decrease starvation (especially during winter)
    ▪ Help increase population (the size of a tribe is extremely important for tribal societies)
    ▪ In addition, food surplus allowed many people to pursue other fields (when you don’t have to find or grow your own food you are free to create new tools, specialize in different fields, create art, and have professional soldiers)
    ▪ Surplus of food also allows for tribe leaders, kings, and rulers which creates social hierarchies.
• Many Indigenous groups developed sophisticated Agricultural techniques that allowed them to take full advantage of their environment (land).
  o One of their distinguish technique is known as the “Three-Sister” farming. Where beans, corn, and squash are planted together to maximize the yield.
    ▪ Unlike the “old World” females were the farms of the society
    ▪ Corn grew in the center and strains of beans grew around it while squash grew at the base of the corn.
      ▪ This procedure allowed farmers to harvest three different types of crops with different nutritional values from the same field.
      ▪ These crops became commodities and farmers routinely traded these crops for tools, meats, and animal fur.
      ▪ Other crops included Potatoes, tomatoes, chili, corn, beans, sweet potato, quinoa, avocados, onion, peanuts, pumpkin, and coca
      ▪ Indigenous Americans domesticated dogs, llamas, alpacas, and guinea pigs as well as other livestock. These domesticated animals were harvested for meat, beans, skin, milk, and eggs