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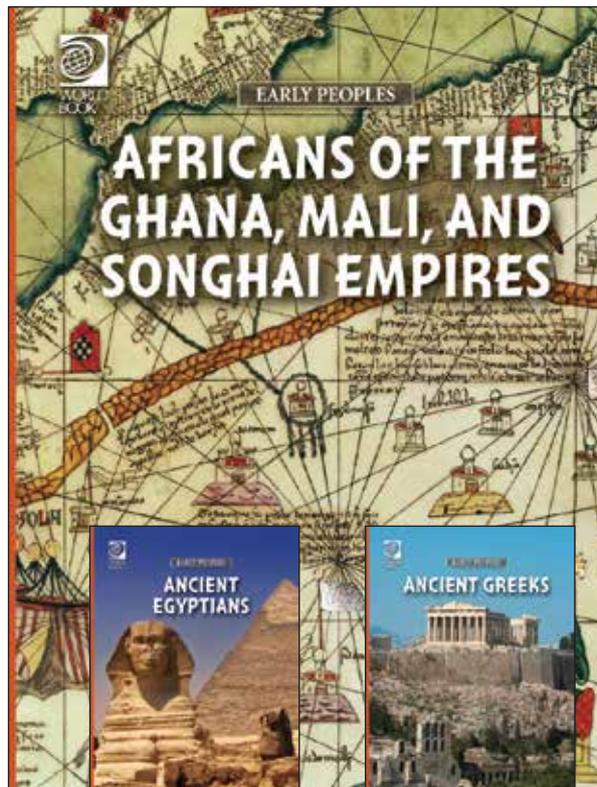


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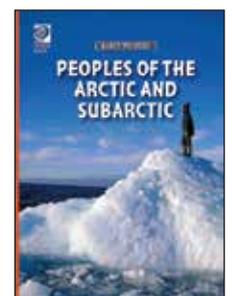
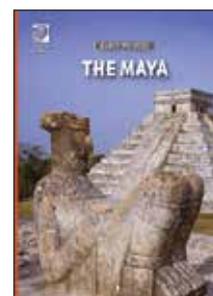
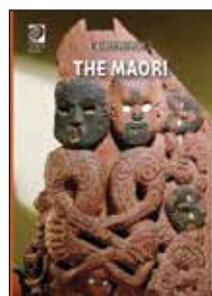
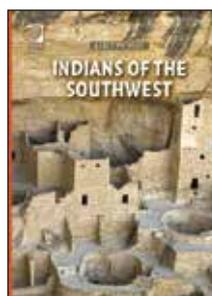
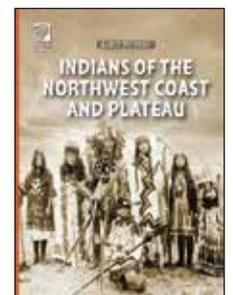
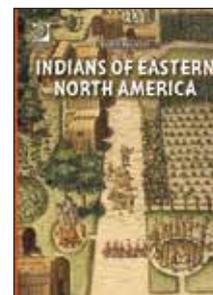
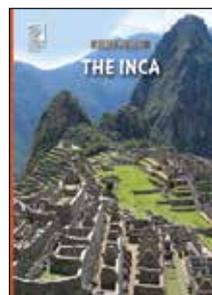
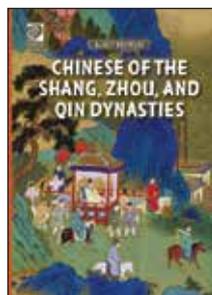
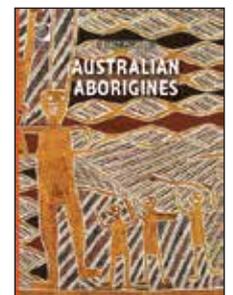
# World Book's Early Peoples

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# CHALLENGE OF THE FAR NORTH



Although the Arctic and Subarctic might appear to be vast empty spaces, to the hunting peoples of the Arctic and Subarctic, the areas were rich in resources they could use successfully.

## Land of the Midnight Sun

The Arctic region of North America extends for 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers) from west to east—from Alaska across the northernmost parts of Canada to northern Greenland. This is an area of craggy coastlines, islands, and expanses of flat, treeless, frozen land called tundra (TUHN druh). It is an extreme environment. Winters are long, cold, and dark. At the height of winter, there are only a few hours of daylight each day. In the northernmost areas, the sun is not seen at all for more than four months. During these times of darkness, temperatures can drop below -75 °F (-60 °C).

In spring and summer, the situation changes. Warmer temperatures cause the ice to break up both on land and on the water. In places where the sun is essentially not seen in the winter, it is seen almost all the time in summer. During

### WORDS FOR SNOW

For the Inuit, snow conditions were a matter of life and death. If the snow was heavy and the wind was high, snowdrifts might bury footprints and animal tracks, and a hunter could get lost. As a result, the Inuit became experts in—and developed many ways to describe—different types of snow. They have a few root words for different kinds of snow, to which various descriptive terms are added to form an almost endless number of compound words to describe varieties of snow conditions. For example, qanigsiq (kah neek see nehk) is a word that describes snow floating on water; muruaneq (moo roo ah nehk) is a soft and deep snow. It is a common misconception that the Inuit have dozens or hundreds of different words for snow. In fact, English and Inuit have around the same number of root words for snow.

some days, the sky never really darkens, even at midnight. For this reason, the northern Arctic is called the “land of the midnight sun.” The constant sunlight can cause temperatures to reach as high as 85 °F (30 °C).

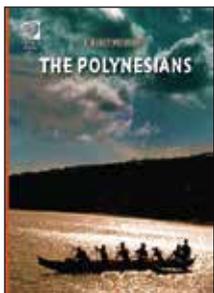
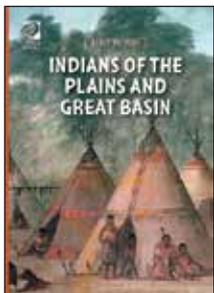
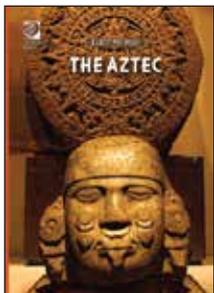
In the tundra, permafrost—ground that remains frozen for two or more years at a time—limits the growth of plant roots and tends to keep water close to the surface. Therefore, trees cannot grow on it. However, above the permafrost, a layer of soil about 1.5 to 16.5 feet (0.5 to 5 meters) thick freezes and thaws enough to permit low-lying bushes, grasses, and wildflowers to grow. In the summer, the tundra comes alive with such plants as Arctic willow, crowberry, dwarf Arctic birch, and dwarf blueberry.

The Arctic is very dry. Only 2 to 10 inches (5 to 25 centimeters) of precipitation falls each year in most of the Arctic. Precipitation is usually in the form of snow. Parts of the Arctic are as dry as deserts are in other parts of the world.

## A Special Kind of Wealth

To people who depended on animals to survive, the Arctic was anything but barren. The melting sea ice opens up waterways, and the natural migration patterns of certain animals cause them to gather in large groups during the Arctic summer. Large concentrations of caribou (KAR uh boo), seals, walrus, and whales make them easy to find and hunt. Huge flocks of migratory birds head north to the tundra for the summer—there is ample food, and there are few predators for the birds to fear. The unfrozen rivers support dense populations of such fish as char, a type of trout. When the weather turns cold, all the food that the people have managed to gather from hunting and fishing can be safely frozen and stored to feed them throughout the coming dark winter.

Caribou graze in the Canadian Arctic. During the short summer, the Arctic tundra comes alive with low-lying shrubs, wildflowers, and other plants. These plants provide food for migrating caribou that move north in huge numbers for the summer months. For the Arctic peoples, the annual caribou migration was a time to hunt. Meat and skins acquired during the summer would give the people food, clothing, and shelter during the long Arctic winter.



# BUILDING AN EMPIRE

The Aztec had found a home on that small island in Lake Texcoco (taysh KOH koh), but they were still weak, and there were many other groups struggling for power in the Valley of Mexico. During the mid-1300's, the Aztec formed an alliance (uh LY uhns) with the Tepanec (tay PAH nayk) Indians who lived to the west. Aztec soldiers fought for the Tepanec armies in local wars. In return, the Tepanec protected the Aztec from enemies.

The Aztec grew stronger and built a second city, called Tlatelolco (TLAH tay LOHL koh), on the lake. In 1372, they chose Acamapichtli (AH kahm ah PEETCH tee) as their first ruler. The Aztec ruler was known as the tlatolani (TLAH tuh AH nee). The city of Tenochtitlan (tay nocht TEE tlahn) began to expand, as more people came to live there.

### TIMELINE OF THE AZTEC EMPIRE

- 1325 Aztec found the city of Tenochtitlan
- 1358 They found another city to the north, called Tlatelolco
- 1372 They elect the first tlatolani, or ruler, Acamapichtli
- 1428 Aztec form the Triple Alliance with Texcoco and Tlacopan
- 1440 Montezuma I becomes the fifth tlatolani
- 1450-1455 Drought kills thousands in the Valley of Mexico
- 1469 Montezuma I dies



The pyramid at Tenayuca (teh nuh YOO kuh), just outside present-day Mexico City, was built in stages between the 1200's and the 1500's. Featuring a double staircase typical of Aztec temple design, the pyramid is believed to be similar to, though much smaller than, the Templo Mayor pyramid at Tenochtitlan (present-day Mexico City), which was destroyed by the Spanish when they invaded in 1519.

“Colors are vivid and contrasts are sharp, imparting each detail with lifelike clarity.”

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## Early Peoples

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