16-1 Notes

* Beringia – a land bridge that was once between Asia and Alaska where scientists think that people followed animals in the Americas
* The first Americans were hunters and gatherers
* Mesoamerica – a region which includes lands stretching from the Valley of Mexico to Costa Rica in Central America
* Mesoamericans formed several complex societies because they began to farm.
* Olmec – people who built a far-reaching trading empire lasting from 1200BC – AD400. They built large stone head carvings.
* Teotihuacan was the first planned city of the Americas. Its name meant “place of the gods”.
* Maya – people who built another civilization in the steamy rain forests of the Yucatan Peninsula. It came to a mysterious end.
* Moche – prospered because dug canals that carried water from the Andes Mountains to their desert homeland to irrigate their crops.
* Inca – people who built the largest empire in the ancient Americas. Its capitol city was Cuzco.
* Hohokam – people who planted gardens on lands between the Salt and Gila Rivers. They also made pottery from turquoise.
* Anasazi – people who lived in huge apartment like houses carved into cliffs.
* Mound Builders – people who built large mounds made of earth, some in the shape of animals