The First Americans:
Pre-Columbian Indian Civilizations

You are the Pre-Historic Man, what do you need in order to survive and thrive?

- Homo Erectus -- approx. 200,000 years ago
- Out of "Gramps"
What kind of societies developed?
- New cultural stage (5000 BCE)
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Which societies, do you think, would be most able to resist European invasion?
What kinds of gaps in knowledge and technology existed between Natives and Europeans?

1491
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(300-900AD)
- Permanent towns dependent on farming
- More leisure means
- Collapse:
  - Over exploited resources
  - Political division & civil war
(1325-1519 AD)
- Founded Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City)
- Religious practices = sacrificial
- Factors influencing collapse (1519)
- Political disunity
- No immunity to foreign diseases

(1400-1552)
- Elaborate system of roads
- Capital city of
- Women treated as equals
- Collapse of Inca Empire (1532)
- Civil war
- Spanish conquistadors (Francisco Pizarro)

Group 1: You are the Incan King Atahualpa, and you struggle to hold your empire together with the invasion of foreigners. How do you propose to deal with them?

Group 2: You are Francisco Pizarro, and you and your Conquistadors are outnumbered 135:1 at the City of Cajamarca. How do you propose to take over this Incan Empire?
(600-1500 AD)
- Intensive agriculture
- Towns, central plazas, temple mounds
- Sweet Tats

(1570 - Present)
- Representative democracy w/ separation of powers
- Constitution

(400 BC - Present)
- Democratic society, pueblo dwellers (desert)
What was the most important factor that enabled only a handful of Europeans to overcome societies of millions of people?

Was violent conflict between Natives and Europeans inevitable? Why or why not?