

“1491” – Charles Mann

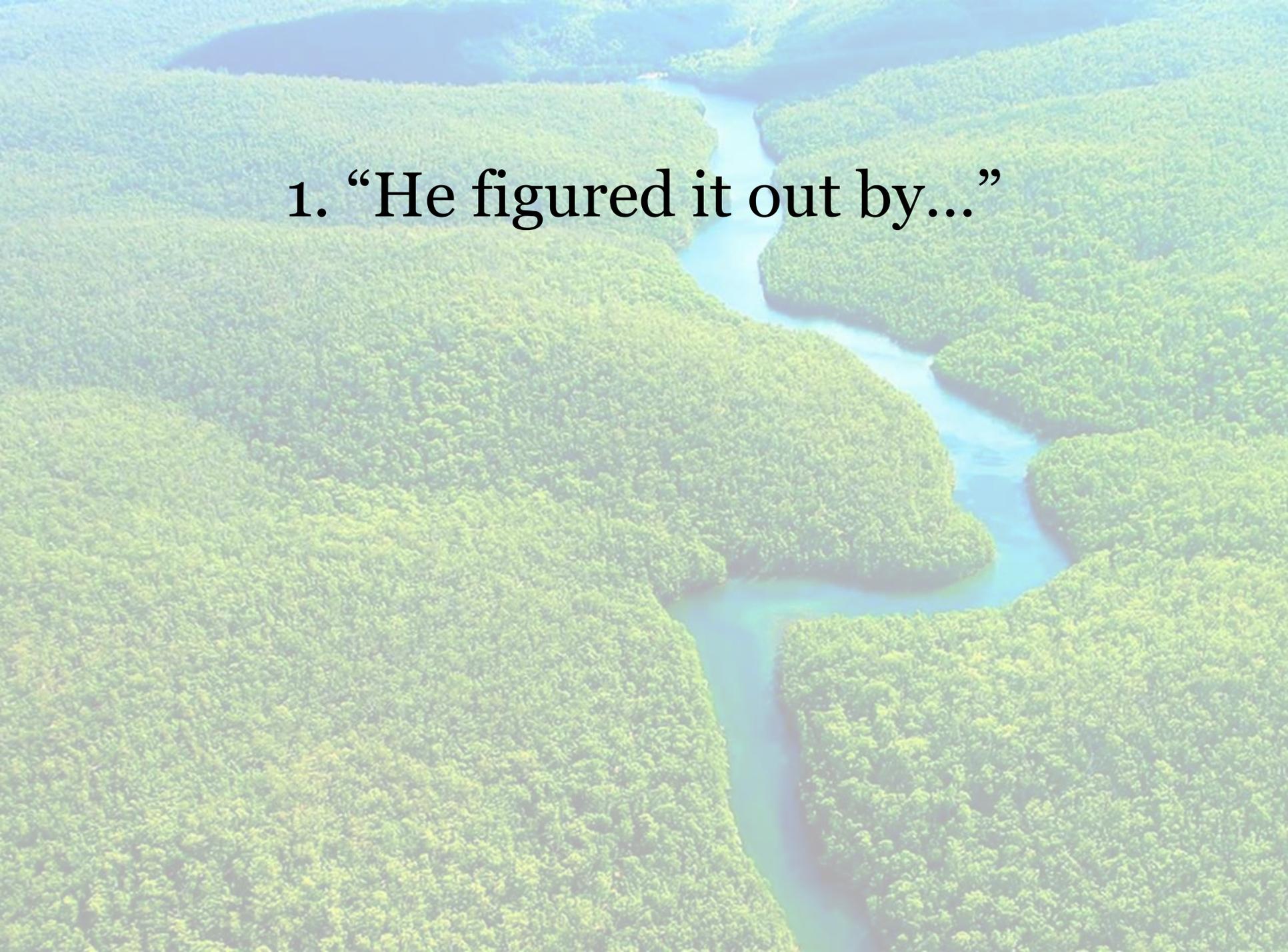
1. According to Henry Dobyns, how many Native Americans lived in the Americas in 1491? How did Dobyns arrive at this estimate? How did this estimated population compare to that of Europe?
2. We will see that the “facts” of history, like other disciplines, are debated. Why were Dobyns’ ideas controversial? What arguments are made to refute his ideas?
3. How did crops developed first by Native Americans affect the continents of Europe and Africa?
4. What evidence suggests that in many ways the peoples of North America were more advanced than the people of Europe?
5. It was traditionally argued that the Native Americans adapted to, but did not change their physical environment. Explain why this idea is inaccurate.
6. How did the actions of Native Americans enable European settlement of North America?

1. 90-112; death records; more than that of Europe
2. Politically motivated by “hate America” to inflate the imperialist toll; many say it’s actually higher; growing realization of political and ecological stakes; more theoretical and no “solid evidence” (like bodies); even one percent difference is a HUGE difference (aka margin of error)
3. More than half the crops grown today were initially developed in the Americas; when grown in Europe and Africa → reduces hunger → increases population → Slave trade possible
4. Architecture, markets, clean cities and people, democratic in many ways (not all like the Incas)
5. Slash and burn to create an environment for hunting game and creating bumper “crops”, Beni built mounds for houses and gardens & fashioned zigzags through the flooded grassland (and the plants became dependent on slash and burn)
6. Cleared land; did not practice quarantine → depop; farming techniques

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1. 3pts – Pay attention.
 2. 2pts
 3. 1pt
 4. 2pts – Why?
 5. 1pt
 6. 2pts

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An aerial photograph showing a winding river or stream cutting through a vast, dense forest of green trees. The river flows from the top center towards the bottom right, with several sharp turns and bends. The surrounding forest is thick and uniform in color, creating a textured green background for the blue water.

1. “He figured it out by...”

You've been asked to head your papers.

Remember this? Follow directions. →

Question 2: Dobyns was controversial and accused of being “politically motivated”, however there are many reasons why others argue his numbers are off...

Also, it's a little weird to answer the one part saying that he was part of the hate-America group, but then say that historians refute his numbers for even higher numbers.

Question 3: You must do more than observe the obvious from now on...you are being asked to do more than just regurgitate information.

“Crops such as corn had a huge impact on the Europeans as it is easy to grow and reduces hunger.”

“Crops developed by NAs were spreading globally due to their many uses, and they were able to withstand different conditions which made them suitable for continents like Europe or Africa.”

“This mass influx of crops would lead to the creation of a slave trade.”

Question 4: Read the question carefully.

“Evidence of advanced farming/agriculture suggests that peoples of North America were more advanced than the people of America as well as a sophisticated monarchy that was much more effective than the Europeans.”

“The native americans grew better crops, had better farming techniques, and had a better lifestyle...took better care of their people.”

Question 4: You also need to be careful that in contrasting NAs to Europeans, you're pointing out something NA societies had that Europeans did NOT (ex: “...NAs had intricate government and political structures.”)

“They had democratic-like governments, more land and more people than Europe.”

“The Indians lived by exploiting their environment while the Europeans broke up the land for farmers and herders. Indians also used fire to clear up underbrush and open fields.”

Format for Heading Papers:

Papers with no names will not be kept, so please head your papers accordingly:

Your Name

Period and Date

Assignment Name

Question 5:

“NAs really did change their environment to benefit them. They changed ecosystems using natural resources to make it favorable to game.”

“They were growing about 140 crops about 9,000 years ago according to Clement. Clement argues that the amazon forest was all human created.”

“NAs both kept land fertile and wanted to keep the integrity of the land and also destroyed parts of the land to make it easier to hunt.”

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Question 6:

“The NAs developed numerous types of maize. When these types of maize spread to Europe, Europe had a population boom which enabled them to settle in the Americas.”

“The NAs came in contact with foreign lands which caused huge disease epidemics allowing americans to take their lands...”

“The NAs were reserved and didn’t attack” “By allowing trade and building relations with the Europeans...”

“The NAs’ curiosity towards the Europeans and their unfamiliar items like guns lead to their tribes being attacked, killed, and raped since they were caught off guard. This led to the majority of the Indians becoming enslaved.”

“The fact that the Natives were spread so far and thin throughout American made it easier for the Europeans to...”