Pre Colombian Native Americans

I. Southwest Native Americans, the Hohokam and Anasazi:

1. What crops were the basis of North American horticulture? Why did these crops require sedentary rather than nomadic lifestyles? Why was this lifestyle often rejected? In what area did tribes thrive without farming?
2. How have historians decided to classify the Hohokam and Anasazi people?
3. Explain the trade culture of these people.
4. In what ways did the Hohokam adapt to their arid environment?
5. Explain the environmental crisis that led to the abandonment of the great Hohokam pueblos and towns.
6. In what ways were Hohokam and Anasazi social ideas and living arrangements shaped by their environment?

II. Moundbuilders:

1. For what reason did the Mississippi Valley develop a successful densely populated society based on agriculture?
2. Why did the people of this region support wealthy and demanding priests?
3. Why is Cahokia constructed between 900 – 1100 regarded as the greatest Native American community north of Mexico? Cite a variety of achievements.
4. Explain the downfall of Cahokia. Be sure to make clear the human causes as well as environmental factors.
5. What impressed the first Spanish to observe the descendants of Cahokia?
6. For what reasons did most Native Americans cause less environmental destruction than Europeans?

III. Iroquois:

1. Where were the Iroquois located?
2. In what way did the Iroquois organize politically? For what purpose?
3. On what economic activities was the Iroquois economy based? How did these activities reflect their environment?
4. What does it mean that the Iroquois lived by the principles of reciprocity and communalism?
5. In what important ways was the status and role of women in Iroquois society different from the role and status of European women?
6. In what ways did the Iroquois keep order in their societies? How does this compare with European methods?