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| **Alan Taylor, *Washington Post* book review of *1491* by Charles C. Mann, published August 7, 2005** | ***The American Pageant* by Kennedy, Cohen and Bailey, 13th edition,** **2006, p. 10** |
| In *1491*, Mann introduces the readers to the controversies provoked by the latest scholarship on native Americans before European exploration and colonization. Many scholars now insist that native settlement began at least 20,000 years ago, when fishing peoples arrived in small, open boats from coastal Siberia. Their descendants developed especially productive modes of horticulture that sustained a population explosion. By 1492, Indians in the two American continents numbered about 100 million – 10 times previous estimates.Far from the indolent, ineffective savages of colonial stereotypes, the Indians cleverly transformed their environments. They set annual fires to diminish underbrush, to encourage large, nut-bearing trees and to open the land to berry bushes that sustained sizeable herds of deer. ...Sometimes they overcrowded the land, straining local supplies of water, wood and game animals. More often, however, the natives ably managed their local nature, sustaining large populations in plenty for centuries. Amazonia, for example, probably supported more people in 1491 than it does today. Their environmental management came to a crashing end after 1492. Colonizers swarmed over the land, determined to subdue, to exploit and to convert the natives. The newcomers carried destructive weapons of gunpowder and steel. They also introduced voracious livestock – cattle, pigs and horses – which invaded and consumed native crops. Worst of all, they conveyed diseases previously unknown to the natives. Lacking immunity, the Indians died by the millions, reducing their numbers to a tenth of their previous population by 1800, in the greatest demographic catastrophe in global history.As Indian populations collapsed, the land lost their management. Underbrush and some species of wildlife surged after the initial epidemics but, significantly, before the arrival of large number of colonists. Seeing a wilderness, the colonizers misunderstood it as primeval evidence that the surviving Indians were lazy savages who did not deserve to keep so much promising land. During the 20th century, anthropologists and environmentalists developed a more positive spin, but one still based on misunderstanding: They recast the Indians as simple conservationists who trod lightly on their beautiful land for centuries, setting examples of passivity that we should emulate.By dispelling these myths to recover the intensive and ingenious native presence in the ancient Americas, Mann seeks an environmental ethos for our own future. Instead of restoring a mythical Eden, we should emulate the Indian management of a more productive and enduring garden. | But for the most part, the native peoples of North America were living in small, scattered, and impermanent settlements on the eve of the Europeans’ arrival. In more settled agricultural groups, women tended the crops while men hunted, fished, gathered fuel, and cleared fields for planting. This pattern of life frequently conferred substantial authority on women, and many North American native peoples, including the Iroquois, developed matrilineal cultures in which power and possessions passed down the female side of the family line.Unlike the Europeans who would soon arrive with the presumption that humans had dominion over the earth and with the technologies to alter the very face of the land, the Native Americans had neither the desire nor the means to manipulate nature aggressively. They revered the physical world and endowed nature with spiritual properties. Yet they did sometimes ignite massive forest fires, deliberately torching thousands of acres of trees to create better hunting habits, especially for deer. This practice accounted for the open, park like appearance of the open woodlands that so amazed early European explorers.But in a broad sense, the land did not feel the hand of the Native Americans heavy upon it, partly because they were so few in number. They were so thinly spread across the continent that vast areas were virtually untouched by a human presence. In the fateful year 1492, probably no more than 4 million Native Americans paddled through the whispering primeval forests and paddled across the sparkling, virgin waters of North America. They were blissfully unaware that the historic isolation of the Americas was about to end forever, as the land and the native peoples alike felt the full shock of the European “discovery.” |

Using the excerpts, answer (a), (b), and (c).

1. Briefly explain ONE major difference between Taylor’s and Pageant’s historical interpretations of Native Americans.
2. Briefly explain how ONE major similarity between Taylor’s and Pageant’s historical interpretations of Native Americans.
3. Briefly explain how ONE person, event, or development from the period before pre-1491-1607 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Taylor’s interpretation.

What is/are the MAIN TOPIC(s) of the stimuli (excerpts)?

**FOCUS on Part (c):**

1. Briefly explain how ONE person, event, or development from the period before pre-1491-1607 that is not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Taylor’s interpretation.

What is the ***action verb*** of the prompt?

What is the main topic of the **prompt**?

Information that would address the prompt? Explain.

Using the above information, construct an answer in the space provided:

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