The Earliest Americans
Timeline Cards
Vikings briefly settled in North America in the 1000s CE.

Big Question: What was Beringia?
CHAPTER 1: Beringia: The Land Bridge

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15,000 BCE: During the Ice Age, much of the world’s water was frozen into ice, and the weather was very cold.
CHAPTER 1: Beringia: The Land Bridge

Big Question: What was Beringia?

15,000 BCE: People lived as hunter-gatherers in North America.
CHAPTER 2: America’s First Settlers

9000 BCE: Over a period of thousands of years, as the ice sheets melted, people spread out over the land and settled on it.

Big Question: How did the ability to grow food change the way people lived?
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5000 BCE: People who settled in Mexico planted corn.
CHAPTER 3: People of the Far North

2500 BCE: When the Inuit first came to North America, they got almost everything they needed by hunting and fishing.

Big Question:
What were the big differences between life in the summer and life in the winter for the Inuit?
1500 CE or 500 years ago: The daily life of the Inuit changed from season to season.

Big Question: What were the big differences between life in the summer and life in the winter for the Inuit?
CHAPTER 4: Ancestral Pueblo and Mound Builders

2,000 years ago or 100 BCE: Ancestral Pueblo moved from Canada to the American Southwest and lived in cliff dwellings that were like small towns.

**Big Question:** How would you compare the settlements built by the Ancestral Pueblo to those built by the Mound Builders?
2,800 years ago or 700s BCE: The Mound Builders’ villages stretched along the Mississippi River Valley. Their villages spanned from the present-day states of Ohio, Wisconsin, and Minnesota to Louisiana and the southeastern United States.

Big Question: How would you compare the settlements built by the Ancestral Pueblo to those built by the Mound Builders?
Big Question: What are some of the reasons why some Native American groups moved from place to place?

1500s CE: The Hopi built homes on mesas with different levels connected by ladders. The Zuni, Navajo, and Apache had different types of homes.
Big Question: What are some of the reasons why some Native American groups moved from place to place?
Late 1500s CE: Creek villages were similar to the communities built by the Mound Builders.

Big Question: What were the key characteristics of the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Nations?
1800s CE: Sequoyah created a system for writing the Cherokee language.

**Big Question:** What were the key characteristics of the Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Nations?
CHAPTER 7: The Eastern Woodlands

1500s CE: Haudenosaunee Confederacy leaders discussed common problems in council meetings.

**Big Question:** What was the purpose of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?