

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What two difficulties does Acosta cite in trying to discern the facts about the origin of the Indians?

The lack of Indian writing in letters (as opposed to pictographs), and the fact that very few European writers have any reference to these matters.

2. What does he say of the man who claims to have these facts?

That he is very rash.

3. How does he believe the people arrived where he now finds them?

Little by little, by wandering.

4. Does Acosta not yet realize how large the earth actually is?

Evidently not, since he pictures the wandering people arriving by accident because of "the interconnection of the lands." We now know that most of the earth is covered in water, and connected lands are the exception, rather than the rule.

5. What kind of people does he think the early Indians were?

Woodsmen and hunters on land and sea.

6. Does he think that a cultivated "republic" could have existed at one time? What happened to it?

Yes. As people wandered away from the centers, the cultivated habits died out.

7. What evidence does he give?

Certain areas of Italy and Spain have such "backward" populations.



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