

## “From America”

*The First Americans, the ones we call Indians, were Siberians from Asia.*

*They walked across the ocean, because it was frozen, and settled from Alaska to South America.*

*That was thousands of years before, Columbus opened up the door, for all the conquistadores to follow.*

*They came for God; they came for gold, with horses and disease that flowed, through the ancient cities of America.*

*The Mayans fell in Yucatan; the Aztecs in Tenochtitlán; and in Peru the Incan land would follow.*

*They dug up gold and silver mines, took the women for their wives, and blended in new cultures for America.*

*Corn, beans, potatoes, tobacco and tomatoes, pumpkins, peppers, peanuts and cocoa, Novocain and quinine, so all the world would feel fine, were all gifts from America.*

*It was all, From America.*

### **Historical Background:**

Most historians agree that the earliest settlers of the Western hemisphere migrated from Asia, across the Siberian Land Bridge approximately ten thousand years ago. Over the centuries, these Native Americans established diverse civilizations that stretched from Alaska to the southern tip of South America. In the late 1400s, the unification of Spain, and advancements in navigational technology, enabled Christopher Columbus and many others after him to reach the Americas. Three of the largest and most established civilizations in the Americas were the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas. These civilizations were virtually wiped out, not by superior European weaponry, but by disease. Because the native peoples of the Americas lived in isolation from Europe and the rest of the world, they never built up immunity to European diseases, and died by the millions. The Columbian Exchange is the term historians use to describe the biological, agricultural and cultural blending that occurred internationally, as a result of this clash between Europe and the Americas. For example, corn, potatoes, tomatoes and syphilis had a profound impact on Europe, just as horses, sugar and smallpox transformed the Americas.

