

TITLE:

Guess the Native American Terms

Native American history, heritage, and culture & their impact on early America

CONTRIBUTOR:

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TOPIC:

American History: Native Americans

GRADE LEVEL:

K – 6*

**Can be adjusted for all age groups (young children through adults)*

TIME ALLOTMENT:

20 – 30 minutes

STANDARDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

(Texas) Title 19. Part 2. Chapter 113. Subchapter C. Rule 113.44 Throughout social studies in Kindergarten-Grade 12, students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, technology, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level of course, enables students to understand importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation... (TEC 28,002(h))

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVE AND LESSON OUTCOME:

The learner will:

- Identify some Native American cultural practices
- Identify some historic Native American tribes
- Recite U.S. words that came from Native languages
- Engage in collaborative and competitive play

MATERIALS, RESOURCES, AND TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED BY TEACHER / STUDENT:

- Chalk or dry-erase board
- Chalk or dry-erase markers
- Printed copy of Terms and their Descriptions*
- Optional: Look through the list of words and phrases, print out pictures of some of the items for sharing with participants

**These items will need to be constructed prior to setting up the activity. Instructions for the construction of these items can be found under the “Procedures” portion of the Lesson Plan.*

INTRODUCTION OF TOPIC:

American Indians were originally given this name from Christopher Columbus. When he landed in the Caribbean islands, he mistakenly thought he was at the islands of the West Indies (off the coast of China), and thus he called the islanders “Indians.” The term “American” was later added to distinguish the peoples in North and South America from those peoples of the West Indies and India. Other popular terms used to describe American Indians are “Native Americans” and “Indigenous,” both of which imply they were caretakers of the lands of the Americas before the Europeans arrived. “First Americans” or “First Peoples” is now commonly used to describe the tribal people who arrived to and settled in the Americas prior to the Europeans. Most tribal people prefer to be called by their Tribal name. (A good way to liken this is that we call persons “German” or “Italian” or “Dutch” to refer to country’s nationality versus simply “European.”)

First Americans had many tribes that were in close proximity to the early Colonial Settlers. The Five Civilized Tribes are the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminoles. They were so named the “civilized tribes” because they did adapt to some of the colonial dress and customs (specifically the Christian religion). These tribes originated in the Mississippi Valley to Florida regions but were forcibly removed to reservations in Oklahoma. Despite treaties with the U.S. Government, these lands in Oklahoma were again forcibly removed from most of these tribes by the U.S. Government. The Apache Tribe originally covered the area from Arizona, through Texas, and to Arkansas. The Pueblo Tribe was one of the earliest tribes in the North America and inhabited the lower Western area of California and Arizona, through New Mexico, and up into Colorado. The Navajo later inhabited similar regions. The Iroquois were the tribes mostly

from the New York area all the way to the Northwest territories (now Illinois and Ohio Valley). They were subdivided into other tribes with some fighting with the colonies and some fighting against the colonies (especially in the French and Indian War, which preceded the American Revolution). The Powhatan Tribe was along the coast of Virginia all the way to Massachusetts. It was the tribe associated with Jamestown and Williamsburg Colonies. Pocahontas was the famous female Powhatan who helped save Captain John Smith of Jamestown Colony from her chief father. (She eventually married John Rolfe, an Englishman as part of a treaty between the colonists and Powhatan. They moved to London and she died shortly thereafter.) The Pawtuxet Tribe was located in Massachusetts along the bay. Squanto was a famous Pawtuxet. He arranged for the Pilgrims to work with the local native tribe. (Note: Squanto had earlier been captured by the English and taken to London where he was put on display and learned English. On his return to the Americas, he was captured by the Spanish and served as an enslaved by Spanish monks. Eventually, he returned to the Americas, where he could speak several languages. Upon his return, he found out his entire village had been wiped out by disease. He stayed in the local Plymouth area and did assist the Pilgrims during their harsh winter. He could speak full English and dressed like an Englishman when they met him.) We also have Native Peoples in Alaska called the Inuit and Native Hawaiian Islanders.

Tribes had all different forms of housing. Some lived in longhouses (permanent houses framed with sapling trees and covered with woven tree branches and dried clay). Often these houses slept entire families or even clans of families. They usually contained a large central fire pit. Some tribes lived in Tee Pees, cone-shaped temporary housing made of branches and deer hide. These were mostly used by tribes that were more nomadic, travelers following their herds of buffalo. (Note: Technically, the Americas do not have “buffalo,” but they have American “bison.”) Tribes also lived in more permanent style homes including log-style cabins and adobe huts.

Each tribe had a different culture with different languages, customs, practices, and beliefs. Some were hunter-gatherers, or nomadic, following their food sources and covering large areas of land. Some were settled farmers. Some were fishermen and stayed near the ocean and/or rivers. The tribes of the Northwest and Alaska would build totem poles. The tribes in the Southwest were often Christian (from the earlier Spanish expeditions and fort at St. Augustine). Most tribes were excellent hunters and had strong ties to the land and conservation.

Many of our words, including names of U.S. States and Rivers and animals, come from Native American languages (e.g., caribou, chipmunk, skunk, hurricane). They helped establish some things that are currently used today, including: the game of lacrosse, the hidden warfare style that the colonists adapted to fight the British, the usage of hammocks, herbal tea usage, plant-based medicines and even barbecue.

Today (2022), we have over 6.79 million self-described Native Americans (2.09% of the entire population of the United States). Almost one-fifth of the Native Americans live in Alaska. There are 574 recognized Native American tribes in the United States. Only 1.14 million people are actually enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. (This is only 0.3% of the United States population.)

PROCEDURE FOR INSTRUCTION:

Materials to Make before the Activity:

- Terms and their Descriptions Sheet – Make a sheet of terms (words and/or phrases) and their descriptions that are related to the objectives of the game. Separate them into two tiers: easier and harder. The easier ones can be used for elementary ages, and the harder ones for upper ages and adults. Some examples follow:
 - Easier words/phrases for lower age groups
 - Word to Guess: HORSES (The animal which changed the lives of the Plains Indians due to their ability to carry more and travel farther.)
 - Word to Guess: PUEBLO TRIBE (One of the tribes that inhabited the Southwest to South Central area of the United States.) Note: You can also use: NAVAJO
 - Phrase to Guess: MAKING BASKETS (The primary work task of American Indian girls in their tribe.)
 - Word to Guess: AMERICAN BISON (The Bison was very important to many Tribes in the Great Plains area of the United States. They used all of its body for meat, clothing, tentmaking and tools. Note: We often use the term “buffalo,” but the more accurate term is “bison.” Buffalo are located on the continent of Asia, and bison, a different animal are located in North America. Bison have large humps on their shoulders and massive heads. They have thicker, shaggy coats. A buffalo has a short hide and a small head more similar to a cow, and they have long horns.)
 - Phrase to Guess: HUNTER-GATHERERS (The lifestyle of many First Peoples which consisted of hunting, fishing, and foraging for their food rather than having planted fields.)
 - Word to Guess: SEMINOLE TRIBE (A Native Tribe that originated in the swamp-land of Florida. They are part of the five civilized tribes with Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Creek. They were one of the tribes that was moved off their tribal lands by order of President Jackson to reservations in Oklahoma. This removal is called “The Trail of Tears,” as so many Natives died along this removal.)
 - Word to Guess: TEPEE (One of the types of Native American homes. They were primarily used by nomadic, or moving tribes. Other types of homes include wigwam and longhouse.)
 - Phrase to Guess: RING AND PEN (One of the many Native American games played by American Indian children. We call it “ring toss” today.)
 - Word to Guess: HAWAII (One of the 26 states whose names come from Native American words or phrases, including: Mississippi, Oklahoma, Utah, and Texas)
 - Word to Guess: APACHE TRIBE (This tribe dominated almost all of West Texas and ranged over a wide area from Arkansas to Arizona.)
 - Word to Guess: MAIZE (Also known as “corn,” this was a grain grown by Native Americans. The grain was dried and ground into “cornmeal” and

used to make cakes and porridge. This was the grain given to the early colonial settlers by the local Native Peoples.)

- Word to Guess: LONGHOUSE (This is a large one-room home built for one to multiple families. It was made with sapling tree branches (that could bend), covered in hides and/or clay, and with a woven thatched roof. In the center would be a fire pit. Doors would be on either side. It often had bunk beds along the walls. It was mostly used by tribes who had fishing as their primary source of food. Thus, it was popular in the Northeast and Northwestern part of the United States.)
- Word to Guess: SQUANTO (He lived from 1585 to 1622 and was born in the area where we now call Plymouth, Massachusetts. He was part of the Pamtuxet Tribe. Together with Chief Samoset, helped the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony survive their winter.) Note: See the Introduction of the Lesson Plan for more information.)
- Harder Words/Phrases – for upper age groups
 - Word to Guess: CHIPMUNK (From the Ojibwe word “chitmunk” for the American Red Squirrel)
 - Word to Guess: KAYAK (A long cigar-shaped boat, originally made from animal skins stretched over a frame of bent sapling trees. It was used for hunting and river travel. It comes from the Inuit (Alaska) language.)
 - Word to Guess: JIM THORPE (The first Native American football player. He also played Major League Baseball and won gold medals for the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics.)
 - Word to Guess: POCAHONTAS (A Native American female of the Powhatan people located where Virginia is today. She was the daughter of the chief and credited with saving the early colonists of Jamestown, including Captain John Smith.)
 - Word to Guess: LACROSSE (A United States modern game based the Native American game called “Stick Ball.” Lacrosse involved the passing of a ball using sticks with nets attached at the end. Males would use two sticks and could not use their hands to touch the ball. They could not hit. Females would also play. They could use their hands and push over players and hit. Today, the teams try to get the ball into a net; in early American times, the Natives would try to hit a fish at the top of a tall tree. Today, there is a field with out-of-bound areas. In early American times, there were no boundaries. Today, you have limited numbers on each team. In early times there typically no set numbers. (It could be played males vs females, tribe vs tribe, family vs family, and over 100 could be on a team.) It was played for entertainment, to toughen young warriors, and also to settle tribal disputes.)
 - Word to Guess: BACONE COLLEGE (A university located in Muskogee, Oklahoma that was founded in 1880 and built to educate American Indian students. It is still in existence today.)
 - Phrase to Guess: HUNTING AND DOING CHORES (This was the primary roles for Native American boys.)

- Word to Guess: MARIA TALLCHIEF (She was a female born in Oklahoma and a member of the Osage Tribe. She was a well-respected prima ballerina from 1942-1966.)
- Word to Guess: DOUBLE BALL GAME (This Native American game involved 2 or 3 opposing teams with the goals almost a mile apart. These games provided women with a chance to prove their strength and agility. The double ball was passed from stick to stick to the goal post. Women and girls played this game. The strongest woman was admired and achieved a high status in the Tribe. It is a precursor to lacrosse.)
- Word to Guess: PONTIAC (He lived from about 1715 to 1796 and was a chief of the Ottawa Tribe of the Great Lakes region of the United States. He led his tribe in a revolt against the British, known as Pontiac's War from 1763 to 1766. There is a town in Michigan named for him, as well as a former brand of automobiles.)
- Word to Guess: TECUMSEH (He lived from about 1768 to 1813 and was a chief of the Shawnee Tribe, which resided in the Northwest Territories (now the area of Ohio). He led his people in a fight against the United States to prevent the expansion of the white settlers into the Northwest Territory (which includes the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and part of Minnesota – which was given to them as part of the treaty with Britain). He wanted an independent confederacy of the tribes of the area, separate from the United States. His defeat led to the end of the resistance of the Native American tribes to expansion. Interesting fact: General William T. Sherman, of the Union forces in the Civil War had his middle name as Tecumseh, as an honor to the chief's character.)

Set-up Prior to the Activity:

- Prepare a large spread-out area for the participants. They can be at tables or on the floor but each participant should be able to see the board
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The Activity:

- Divide the participants into 2-4 equal teams. It is helpful to not have more than 2-4 players on each team. If you have an unequal number of participants, the extra person can help remove the numbered cards, keep score, or even read the questions (if age appropriate).
- Use Rock, Paper, Scissors game to determine who goes first.
- Use the following process for each Word/Phrase to guess:
 - Draw lines for the amount of letters for each word, leaving a space or making a slash between words. (Do not put slashes between first and last names or names of proper nouns, such as tribal names.)
 - The first team guesses a letter.
 - If the letter is guessed correctly, they may guess another letter or eventually guess the word or phrase.

- If the letter is not part of the word or phrase, or the guess of the word/phrase is incorrect, the play moves to the next team
- When the term or phrase is guessed correctly, read the description of the word or phrase to the group. If you have a picture, share the picture.
- Give the entire group time to add comments or ask questions about the word or phrase.
- When a team guesses the phrase or word correctly, they get 5 points
- Go through as many phrases or words as time allows.

After the Activity:

- Clean up the board

LESSON CLOSURE:

Ask the following: “Now that we’ve participated in this game tell me something new that you have learned today.” Let each participant quickly add something. It is o.k. if things learned are repeated.

Optional: A good though discussion may surround the terms used to describe “American Indians.” Use the Lesson Plan Introduction for more information about the terms used.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT UNDERSTANDING:

Review the objectives for possible assessment questions. Give a quick quiz to see how many of the objectives were achieved.

- Example: What is type of home for a Native American tribe?
- Example: Who is a famous Native American?

Sample Quiz or Exam Questions

- Which Native American game is now a popular American sport? A. Lacrosse B. Ring and Pin. C. Soccer
- How many U.S. States are named for Native American words or phrases? A. 10 B. 18 C. 21 D. 26