



Native Americans: Notes

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Native Americans - indigenous people of the Americas

European Invasion - after the Europeans had infiltrated the Americas they conquered and killed several Native Americans, causing the rest of the Native American population to move from rural area to rural area, trying to survive.

Arctic

- Cold, flat, and treeless (Arctic Circle)
- Tribes: Inuit, Aleut
- Population is low
- Popular animals are seals, polar bears, and other animals that migrated across the tundra
- Tribes live in dome-shaped houses made of sod, timber, or ice blocks
- They use seal and otter skins to make warm and versatile clothing.

Subarctic

- A swampy, piney, forest; waterlogged tundra
- Across Alaska and Canada
- Tribes: Tsattine, Gwich'in, Deg Xinag, Cree, Ojibwa, Naskapi
- Travelling is difficult because of poor means of transportation
- People live in mobile tents
- The way of life was fur trade, but is now hunting and gathering



Northeast

- Mild weather
- North Carolina to Mississippi River Valley
- Tribes: Cayuga, Oneida, Erie, Onondaga, Seneca, Tuscarora, Pequot, Fox, Shawnee, Wampanoag, Delaware, and Menominee
- Politically stable villages
- Main crops are corn, beans, and vegetables
- Culture has a lot of conflict because the tribes are usually aggressive and war-like, they rioted against the Europeans

Southeast

- Humid and fertile
- North of the gulf of Mexico and South of the northeast
- Tribes: Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole
- Had several expert farmers that grew crops such as maize, beans, squash, tobacco, and sunflower
- By the time the U.S. had won independence in 1776, several native people had died because of disease and displacement.
- The Federal Indian Removal Act caused a 100 thousand Indians to move to Oklahoma, this was called “The Trail of Tears”

Plains

- Mild weather
- Between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains
- Tribes: Crow, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Comanche and Arapaho
- Were hunters and farmers before they got relocated by the Europeans, became nomadic after
- They had to move onto government reservations because they weren’t able to make money off of buffalo (the white hunters had exterminated the buffalo)

Southwest

- Humid desert region
- Present day Arizona, New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Utah, Texas, and Mexico
- Tribes: Hopi, Zuni, Yaqui, Yuma, Navajo, and Apache
- Either grew crops, such as corn, beans, and squash, or they hunted
- Houses were less permanent, called Hogans, and they were made out of mud and bark
- They became enslaved by the Spanish colonists



Great Basin

- Barren wasteland of deserts, salt flats and lakes
- Formed by the Rocky Mountains, Sierra Nevada, Columbia Plateau, and Colorado Plateau
- Tribes: Bannock, Paiute and Ute
- They grew roots, seeds, and nuts
- They hunted lizards, snakes, and small mammals
- They lived in wickiups, made out of willow poles or saplings
- They were forced to move by the Europeans after gold and silver were discovered in their region.

California

- Mild - humid climate
- It had 300,000 people, so over a hundred different tribes
- It had more than 200 dialects
- Its linguistic landscape was more complex than Europe
- They were hunter gatherers
- In 1769, Junípero Serra started a brutal period of forced labor and disease involving the native people in San Diego

Northwest Coast

- From British Columbia to the top of Northern California
- Mild climate
- Tribes: Athapaskan Haida and Tlingit; the Penutian Chinook, Tsimshian and Coos; the Wakashan Kwakiutl and Nuuchah-nulth (Nootka); and the Salishan Coast Salish
- They ate seafood
- There were permanent villages/houses
- A person's status is determined by closeness to the village chief and number of possessions

Plateau

- Fertile land
- Present day Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington state
- Tribes: Nez Perce, Flathead, Kutenai, Palus, Coeur D'Alene, Cayuse, and Kalispel
- People survived by fishing, hunting, and gathering berries, roots, and nuts
- They integrated animals into their economy by expanding the radius of their hunting and becoming traders
- The population either got resettled in government reservations or died due to disease