



Native American Cultures in North America

SS4H1 and SS4G2

Georgia Performance Standard

SS4H1 The student will describe how early Native American cultures developed in North America.

1. Locate where Native Americans settled with emphasis on the Arctic (Inuit), Northwest (Kwakiutl), Plateau (Nez Perce), Southwest (Hopi), Plains (Pawnee), and Southeast (Seminole).
2. Describe how Native Americans used their environment to obtain food, clothing, and shelter.

Georgia Performance Standard

SS4G2 The student will describe how physical systems affect human systems.

1. Explain why each of the Native American groups (SS4H1a) occupied the areas they did, with emphasis on why some developed permanent villages and others did not.

Notes:

- In this unit, students will study six different tribal regions. These regions are similar to our regions today.

Arctic Plateau

Northwest Southwest

Plains Southeast

- Students will study one tribe from each of the six main regional areas.

Notes:

- Each tribal region had different tribes living within that region, just like each region today has many states and cities.
- Unlike our regions today, most of these tribes had different languages and traditions.

Tribes of the Indian Nation



Essential Questions

By the end of the unit, students should be able to answer these questions thoroughly.

1. Where were the following tribes located: Inuit, Kwakiutl, Nez Perce, Hopi, Pawnee, and Seminole?
2. How did Native Americans use their environment to obtain food, clothing, and shelter?
3. Why did each tribe choose their location to live?

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes:

Inuit

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Background Information

- Inuit means “humans” or “people”
- Inuits still live in the Arctic region today
- Commonly referred to as Eskimos
- Due to limited contact with rest of the world, they believed they were the only people in the whole world until 1818 when they met some European explorers.

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Background Information

- They usually live in small bands (not tribes) of immediate family, larger bands included grandparents and aunts and uncles.
- Children quickly learned survival skills:
 - Boys followed fathers and learned to hunt, take care of dogs, build houses, make tools
 - Girls learned to sew, cook, and preserve foods

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Food

- Most food is gathered in summer when the sun was out longer. In the winter, Inuits don't see the sun from November-February.
- Hunt whales, caribou, birds
- Pick berries (during summer)
- Catch fish

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Clothing

- The Inuit are able to endure their brutal environment because they dress properly.
- Wear skins of animals (seal, caribou, whale).
 - The caribou: used to make a coat called a parka (large, warm, had hoods to protect the wearer's head and face)
 - Wolf fur: lined the hoods (it doesn't freeze when it gets wet)

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Clothing

- Shoes, called mukluks, are watertight boots that reach almost to the knees. The soles of the mukluk are made from sealskin that has been chewed to make it soft and flexible.
- Clothing is decorated with strips of colored fur, animal tails, feathers, beads or pieces of ivory.

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Clothing

- Goggles- The Inuit make special goggles to protect their eyes from the glare of the sun on ice and snow.
- The goggles have narrow slits to let only a small amount of light through to the eyes.



Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Shelter

- Inuits are nomadic.
- In summer, they would live in tents made of animal skin
- In winter, some Inuits would live in earth houses made of earth, rocks, and driftwood. Others would build igloos.
- Igloos could be as large as 10 feet high and 15 feet across. Some would hold multiple families. A small temporary igloo only takes a couple of hours to build.

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit

Shelter

- Igloos or snow houses could be built near each other with connecting tunnels.
- They entered through long tunnels with a skin hanging at the opening.
- Families slept in the main room together, on a platform made of snow and piled with furs for warmth.
- Several smaller rooms attached to store supplies/food
- A burning wick made of twisted moss provided enough heat

Native American Culture

Arctic Tribes: Inuit



SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

INUIT

The Arctic is over 4,000 miles of ice and snow.

There are no trees, but there are many rivers and bays. Very few people live there. However with the rivers and bays, there was ample food during summer months.

Due to lack of communication, the Inuits did not know that there was anything else in this world until 1818. They did not have any knowledge of other scenery. Therefore, this is how they existed.

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes:

Kwakiutl

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Background Information

- Kwakiutl means “beach on the north side of the water”.
- Pronounced kwah-kee-OOT-l
- Famous for gigantic carvings made on the trunks of cedar trees, generally called totem poles

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Background Information

- Located on the Pacific Northwest- near modern day Oregon, Washington, and California

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Food

- The Kwakiutl Indians were fishing people. Kwakiutl men caught fish and sea mammals from their canoes.
- They also hunted deer, birds, and small game.
- Kwakiutl women gathered clams and shellfish, seaweed, berries, and roots.

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Clothing

- Kwakiutl men didn't usually wear clothing at all, though some men wore a breech cloth.
- Women wore short skirts made of cedar bark. In colder weather, both genders wore knee-length tunics, long cloaks of shredded cedar bark, and moccasins.
- For formal occasions, Kwakiutl people wore more elaborate outfits, with tunics, leggings and cloaks painted with tribal designs.

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Clothing

- Both men and women wore basketry hats made of woven spruce root. The designs and patterns of these hats often displayed a person's status and family connections.
- The Kwakiutls did not usually paint their faces, but they did paint their hair red for festive occasions, and sometimes wore tribal tattoo art.
- Kwakiutl women wore their hair long and loose or in two long braids, while men often coiled theirs into a topknot.

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Shelter

- The Kwakiutls lived in coastal villages of rectangular cedar-plank houses with bark roofs.
- Usually these houses were large (up to 100 feet long) and each one housed several families from the same clan (as many as 50 people.)

Native American Culture

Northwest Tribes: Kwakiutl

Shelter

- Only coastal tribes, who made their living by fishing, made plank houses.



SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

KWAKIUTL

- . They lived along the Pacific coast in California and in the northwestern part of what is now the United States, including the Alaskan coast, and the western Canadian coastline.

The climate was rainy and mild. The land was covered with forests and lakes so wildlife and food were abundant.

Like the Inuit the Kwakiutl did no farming, but unlike the Inuit they had lots of food available. The area they inhabited was very rich in natural resources the Indians could use to survive.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes:

Nez Perce

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Background Information

- Nez Perce is French, pronounced Nay per-say, which means “pierced nose” (which is misleading because most of the people did not pierce their nose).
- However, the Native Americans called themselves Nimipu, pronounced Nee-me-poo, which means “the real people”.
- Tribal location: Idaho, Oregon and Washington State. They hunted buffalo in Montana and Wyoming.
- A large number of Nez Perce still live in Idaho.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Background Information

- The Nez Perce were encountered by Lewis & Clark on their journey west. Lewis journaled about the encounter.

http://lewisandclarkjournals.unl.edu/read/?_xmlsrc=introduction.v07.xml&_xslsrc=LCstyles.xsl

- Detailed information for students and teachers:

http://www.bigorin.org/nez_kids.htm

- National Park information:

<http://www.nps.gov/nepe/index.htm>

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Food

- The Nez Perce practiced a seasonal subsistence cycle, living with the seasons, not by the month.
- In early spring, the women traveled to the lower valleys to dig root crops. The men traveled to the Snake and Columbia rivers to intercept the early salmon runs. The men still hunted, but much less during the salmon runs.
- In mid-summer all the people of the village moved to higher mountainous areas setting up temporary camps to gather later root crops, fish the streams, and do more hunting of the big game.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Food

- By late fall the people settled back into their traditional villages along the rivers. Salmon and other fish, game, dried roots and berries provided winter foods for storage.
- Hunting parties would travel to the hills and river bottoms where the deer and elk wintered.
- The basic roots gathered for winter storage included bitterroot, wild carrot, wild potato, and other root crops. Fruit collected included service berries, gooseberries, hawthorn berries, thorn berries, huckleberries, currants, elderberries, chokecherries, blackberries, raspberries, and wild strawberries.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Food

- Other food gathered includes pine nuts, sunflower seeds, and black moss.
- Large game animals that were hunted include deer, elk, moose, bear (black, brown, and grizzly), mountain sheep and goats.
- Small game was hunted when needed, include rabbit, squirrel, badgers, and marmot. Birds such as ducks, geese, ruffed grouse, and sage hens were also hunted.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Clothing

- Women wore long deerskin dresses.
- Men wore breech cloths with leather leggings and buckskin shirts.
- A lady's dress or warrior's shirt was fringed and often decorated with beadwork, shells, and painted designs.
- Moccasins were worn on their feet.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Clothing

- Nez Perce people adapted European costume such as cloth dresses and vests, which they also decorated with beading and traditional ornaments.
- Indian leaders did wear feather headdresses, but they weren't long and trailing like Sioux war bonnets. Headdresses were made of a ring of feathers that stood up from a headband

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Clothing

- Women usually wore basket hats woven from bear grass and cornhusks.
- Women and men both wore their hair long, either leaving it loose or putting it into two braids
- The Nez Perces also painted their faces for special occasions. They used different patterns for war paint, religious ceremonies, and festive decoration.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce, 1877



Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Shelter

- Originally, the Nez Perce lived in settled villages of earth houses. They made these homes by digging an underground room, then building a wooden frame over it and covering the frame with earth, cedar bark, and tule mats.
- There were two styles of Nez Perce earth houses: oval-shaped longhouses, which could be as long as 150 feet, and smaller round houses.
- Dozens of families lived together in a longhouse, while only one family lived in a round house.

Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Shelter

- Once the Nez Perce began hunting the buffalo, they began to use tipis like the Plains tribes. Tipis, or teepees, are tall, cone-shaped buffalo-hide houses.
- Since Nez Perce hunters moved frequently to follow the buffalo, a tipi was carefully designed to set up and break down quickly, like a modern tent.

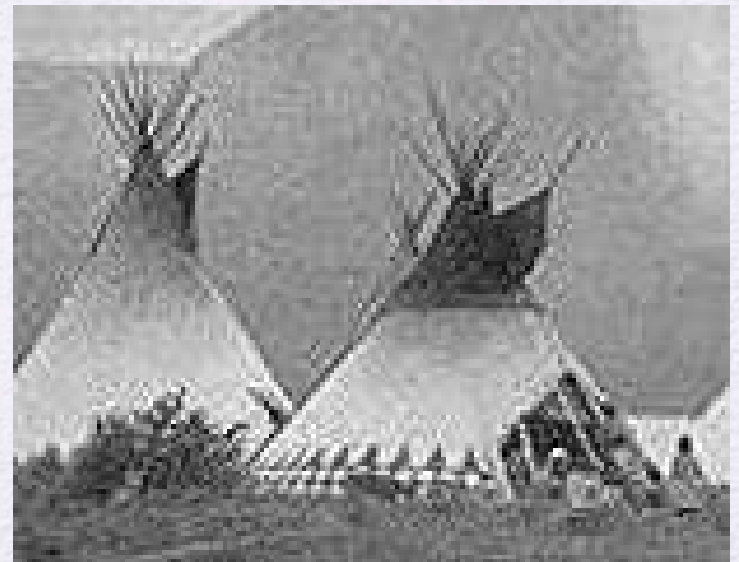
Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce



Longhouse

**Tepees or
Tipis**



Native American Culture

Plateau Tribes: Nez Perce

Shelter

- Nez Perce people do not live in old-fashioned earth houses anymore
- Native Americans sometimes use a tepee for a camping trip or to connect with their heritage, but not for permanent shelter.
- Nez Perce people today live in modern houses and apartment buildings.

SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

NEZ PERCE

- The Nez Perce were fishing and hunting people so the Idaho, Washington, and Oregon area catered to these needs.
- The areas occupied had a great deal of large animals (buffalo, deer, elk, and other game).
- The women were able to gather food from the gardens they grew.
- With horses, the men were able to travel over the mountains to trade with the Plains Indians.

Native American Culture

Southwest Tribes:

Hopi

Native American Culture

Southwest Tribes: Hopi

Background Information

- Hopi means “peaceful people”
- Lived in Arizona area
- Used Kachinas and Kivas in religious ceremonies
- Women were buried in their wedding outfit so when they entered the spirit world they would be dressed appropriately.

Native American Culture

Southwest Tribes: Hopi

Food

- They raised corn or maize as the basic food. They grew 24 different kinds of corn, but the blue and white was the most common.
- They also grew beans, squash, melons, pumpkins, and fruit.

Native American Culture

Southwest Tribes: Hopi

Clothing

- Hopi men didn't wear much clothing-- only breech cloth
- Hopi women wore knee-length cotton dresses called *mantas*. A *manta* fastened at a woman's right shoulder, leaving her left shoulder bare.
- *Missionaries didn't think this dress style was modest enough, so in the 1900's many Hopi women started wearing blouses underneath their mantas.*

Native American Culture

Southwest Tribes: Hopi

Clothing

- Men and women both wore moccasins on their feet.
- For dances and special occasions, women painted their moccasins white and wrapped white strips of deerskin around their shins as leggings.

Native American Culture

Southwest Tribes: Hopi

Shelter

- Hopi people lived in adobe houses, which are multi-story house complexes made of adobe (clay and straw baked into hard bricks) and stone.
- Each adobe unit was home to one family, like a modern apartment. Hopi people used ladders to reach the upstairs apartments.
- A Hopi adobe house can contain dozens of units and was often home to an entire extended clan.

SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

HOPI

- The Hopi Indians are now located on the Black Mesa in Arizona near a place called the Painted Desert. Most of the original area of the Hopi Indians was made into the Hopi Reservation. The original area of the Hopi tribe was located almost all in northern Arizona.
- The Hopi have always viewed their land as sacred. Agriculture is a very important part of their culture. Villages were originally located below the mesa edges close to their springs.
- The Hopi tribe lived inside a very warm climate. There's not much of any form of precipitation during the winter but the temperature is very cold in the mountains. The Hopis lived in the plains area. Year around the humidity is very low. During the summer, on average they get around 30 inches of rain.

SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

Hopi

- Oraibi and Walipi are inhabited traditional villages, which means they have no outside electricity, no running water, no sewer, no piped in natural gas. Walipi is actually a bit more primitive than Oraibi as Oraibi does allow solar panels & some generators.
- **Natural Resources Available:** In some areas the land/soil is not very helpful for trying to grow produce. There are some areas that have very good soil and other areas that don't have any at all. Some of Arizona's largest native animals consist of grizzly bears, timber wolf, elk, and bison. The water sources are also healthy, therefore can be used for drinking water.
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Native American Culture

Plains Tribes:

Pawnee

Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee

Background Information

- Pawnee means “horn” (this was an English term given to this tribe)
- Lived in Nebraska and Kansas area
- An epidemic of both smallpox and cholera wiped all but 600 of the Pawnee Indians by the 19th century. However, the population has re-grown, at least some. Reports have shown that as recently as 2005 show that there were about 2,500 Pawnee Indians in the United States. Mostly living in Oklahoma

Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee

Food

- The Pawnees were farming people. Pawnee women raised crops of corn, beans, pumpkins, squash, and sunflowers.
- Gathering wild plants
- The men worked together to hunt buffalo and antelopes. Originally, Pawnee hunters would drive buffalo onto marshy land where it was easier to shoot them,

Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee

Clothing

- Pawnee women wore deerskin skirts and poncho-like blouses. Pawnee men wore breech cloths and leather leggings
- Men did not usually wear shirts, but warriors sometimes wore special buckskin war shirts.
- A Pawnee lady's dress or warrior's shirt was fringed and often decorated with beadwork and painted designs.

Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee

Clothing

- Pawnee Indian leaders sometimes wore the long war bonnets that Plains Indians are famous for. Pawnee men shaved their heads except for a scalplock (one long lock of hair in back) and wore a porcupine roach on top.
- Pawnee women wore their hair either loose or braided.
- The Pawnees also painted their faces for special occasions. They used different patterns for war paint, religious ceremonies, and festive decoration.

Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee



Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee

Shelter

- Most Pawnee Indians lived in settled villages of round earthen lodges. Pawnee lodges were made from wooden frames covered with packed earth.
- When the Pawnee tribe went on hunting trips, they used buffalo-hide tipis (or teepees) as temporary shelter, similar to camping tents.

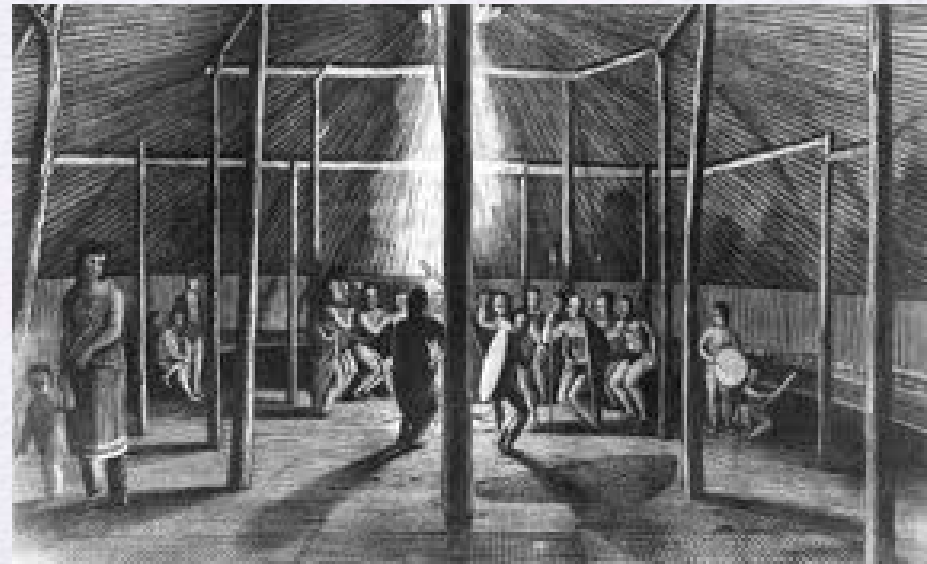
Native American Culture

Plains Tribes: Pawnee



PAWNEE EARTH LODGE. (*From photograph by A. E. Sheldon.*)

EARTH LODGING



SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

PAWNEE

The Pawnee generally settled close to the rivers and placed their lodges on the higher banks.

The tribe went on buffalo hunts in summer and winter so they needed to live where buffalo was abundant.

They planted their crops along the river bottomlands. These crops provided a wide variety of nutrients.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes:

Seminoles

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Background Information

- Seminole comes from the Spanish word for wild, separatist, or runaway.
- The Seminoles lived in Florida. They started out in northern Florida, but when the Americans attacked them, the Seminole tribe retreated further south, into the Everglades.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Background Information

- In the 1700's, many Indians from Georgia and Florida joined together for protection. These tribes originally had unique cultural identities, but they soon merged into a unified Seminole nation.
- There are two Seminole tribes today. The Florida Seminoles live on a reservation, which is land that belongs to the tribe and is under their control. The Oklahoma Seminoles live on trust land.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Food

- The Seminoles were farming people. Seminole women harvested crops of corn, beans, and squash.
- Men did most of the hunting and fishing, catching game such as deer, wild turkeys, rabbits, turtles, and alligators.
- Seminole Indian dishes included cornbread, soups, and stews.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Clothing

- Men wore breechcloth.
- Women wore wraparound skirts, usually woven from palmetto.
- Shirts were not necessary in Seminole culture, but men and women both wore poncho-style mantles in cool weather.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Clothing

- Men usually shaved their heads except for a single scalplock, and sometimes they would also wear a porcupine roach.
- Women wore their long hair in topknots or buns, but later they developed a distinctive hairstyle in which they fanned their hair out around a cardboard frame.
- Wore elaborate tribal tattoos but rarely painted their faces.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Shelter

- The Seminole people lived in houses called chickees. Seminole chickees were made of wood and plaster, and the roofs were thatched with palmetto fiber.
- Originally, the Seminoles lived in large villages of chickees arranged around a town square with central buildings in it, like a meeting hall and a sports field.

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole



Chickee

Native American Culture

Southeast Tribes: Seminole

Shelter

- As the Seminoles moved south, they began living in smaller groups in remote areas of the Everglades.
- They also began building their houses on wooden stilts that raised the floor two or three feet off the ground. This protected their homes from flooding and swamp animals.

SS4G2 Why did they occupy the areas they did?

SEMINOLE

The Seminoles occupied northern Florida because of the climate (warm weather) and access to food. They could easily fish, grow crops, and hunt small animals.

The Seminoles migrated toward the Everglades due to war with European countries and several groups of Native Americans were escaping English rule. They did not want to move west.

SS4G2 Why were some permanent and others not?

- Some tribes were nomadic because it was essential to find food to survive. To become permanent could endanger their survival.
- Some tribes were stationary because they were able to find food and essential items where they were located. All their needs were met in one location.
- Many tribes moved seasonally from winter to summer as they followed the food supply and favorable climate.

Resources

- North American Indians by Herman Viola, 1996
- Indian Nations of North America, National Geographic, 2010
- Native American Housing: <http://www.native-languages.org/houses.htm>
- Information: <http://www.bigorrin.org>
- http://teachers.henrico.k12.va.us/fairfield/saunders_d/homework/firstamericans/kwakiutl.pdf
- <http://www.experiencehopi.com/villages.html>
- <http://www.hopioutreach.org/page.php?page=history>