

In this unit, students will learn how Native Americans were intricately and intimately connected to their landscape and how the policies of the government and the contact with others affected Native American cultures.

What's the story?

Students will be introduced to different **Native American tribes** and will explore the **similarities among tribes** and the pride each of them had of their own **unique identity and culture**. They will also read **myths** and **tales** from specific tribes.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about the **policies** of the U.S. government in the 1800s and that the **contact with settlers, missionaries, traders, and explorers** affected Native American cultures and their relationships with the land.

Through **writing** lessons, students will continue to **practice** the **various stages** of the **writing process**. They will focus on taking notes, incorporating evidence, and crafting an argument as they write a **persuasive essay**.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What was life like for Native Americans before the Europeans arrived?
Follow up: How did European exploration and settlement change the way Native Americans lived?
2. How were some tribes of the Plains and surrounding regions similar to one another?
Follow up: How were they different?
3. What were some important parts of the culture and lifestyle of Native American tribes in California?
Follow up: Tell me more about the canoes they built and used.
4. What was available to the Pacific Northwest tribes that allowed them to thrive in that area?
Follow up: How did they supplement their diet when salmon was not available?
5. How did things change for Native Americans during the westward expansion of the United States?