

Summer Assignment US History I

PART 1: America Before Columbus - The history of Native Americans

When learning about the history of the United States, it is important to recognize the history of the various Native American tribes that originally inhabited the Americas prior to the arrival of Europeans. Part one of this Summer assignment will focus on the history of Native American tribes in North America prior to the arrival of Europeans.

Crash Course: Introduction to Native American History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHXC0uOLOkA> - Watch the following video and answer the questions below.

1. Using the video, define ***indigenous***
2. Define ***American Indian*** and briefly identify the pros and cons of using this terminology. ***Native American*** is an alternative term for American Indian. Identify the pros and cons of this term as well.
3. What is the “paradox” of Native American history?
4. Using the video, define ***settler colonialism***.
5. According to the US Census, how many people identify as American Indian or Alaska Native? Is this a perfectly accurate representation of the population of Native Americans in the US? Why or why not?
6. Why is Native American history important?

Document Based Questions - Native American History: Origins

Scientific Origins: Scholars believe that the ancestors of Native Americans came from Siberia, a region in Asia that is part of modern-day Russia. Anthropologists have proposed different theories proposing how these early humans arrived in the Americas, the two most prominent being the land-bridge theory and the coastal route theory. The land-bridge theory proposes that Paleo-Indian hunters crossed from Asia to North America via a land bridge that connected Siberia and Alaska during the Ice Age. During the Ice Age, sea levels were much lower due to more of the Earth's water being frozen. As a result, this land bridge was exposed and traversable. Anthropologists theorize that Paleo-Indians followed the animals they hunted into North America from Asia, and then journeyed South and populated North and South America as they went. Alternatively, the coastal route theory poses that Paleo-Indians migrated along coastal regions, hunting seals and whales. According to this theory, these Paleo-Indians traversed the west coasts of North and South America before making their way inland as they went. As the temperature increased at the end of the Ice Age, sea levels rose and cut off the Americas from the rest of the world, allowing Native Americans to develop independently. These original groups of Paleo-Indians would develop into the indigenous populations of the Americas.

Document Source: Lapansky –Werner, Emma J.*et.al.* *United States History Interactive*. Savaas Learning Company . Paramus, New Jersey 2022. (adapted)

1. Describe the land-bridge theory, explaining how early humans are believed to have migrated from Asia to North America, and what environmental conditions made this migration possible
2. Explain the coastal route theory as it pertains to the migration of Paleo-Indians to the Americas, and discuss how their way of life was adapted to this coastal environment.
3. How did the end of the Ice Age and the subsequent rise in sea levels impact the development of Native American populations, according to the passage?

Native American Origin Stories: The creation of human beings is the subject of many accounts. In some Native American traditions, the people were already in existence (sometimes in spirit form) and emerged into the world from an underground place. Sometimes people were created in this Underworld, as in the accounts of the Acoma emergence and migration, the Apache emergence and migration, the Hopi emergence and migration, the Navajo (Dineh) emergence, and the Zuni emergence and migration. The manner of emergence varies. In the Choctaw and Creek accounts, humans emerged from a hole in the ground. Pale and damp, they lay in the sun until their skin darkened. Then they migrated in separate groups—the Cherokee to the north, the Creek and Chickasaw to the east and south. The Choctaw remained in the emergence place. This story explains the origin of the different tribes. (In postcontact times, the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole were called the Five Civilized Tribes. They believed themselves to be descended from the mound builders.) In a Northwest Coast creation account, the first people emerged from a seashell Raven found on the seashore, rather than an underground place. In the Kiowa account, the people came into the world one by one, squirming through a hollow log. Unfortunately, a pregnant woman became stuck in the log, and after that no one else could enter the world. This explains why there were so few Kiowa. According to a Penobscot account, the culture hero Gluskap shot an arrow into an Ash. The tree split open, and from it the Penobscot emerged, singing and dancing. In other traditions, deities, holy beings, and other powerful beings were the ancestors of humans. In the Skidi Pawnee account, Standing Rain, the daughter of Evening Star (the planet Venus) and Morning Star (the planet Mars), was the mother of the human race. In an Inuit legend, the children of a woman who had married a Dog became the ancestors of humanity.

Humans were created from a variety of substances. Frequently they were made of mud or clay, as in the accounts of the Yavapai-Apache, Creek, Yuma, and Crow. In a Northwest Coast tale, First Man brought forth a woman from Tobacco smoke. In the Modoc origin account, Kumush created the Klamath, Modoc, Shasta, and other tribes from bones he brought from the home of the spirits. In the Jicarilla Apache story, Black Hactcin made the first man by drawing an outline of his body on the ground, sprinkling it with Pollen, and using precious stones for the man's body parts. According to Navajo (Dineh) tradition, Changing Woman created the first four Navajo (Dineh) clans using skin from her own body. Earthmaker, the Akimel O'odham Creator, made humans from his own sweat. The Maidu Creator,

Kodoyanpe, made humans from carved wooden images. In the Comanche creation account, Great Spirit created the Comanche people from swirls of dust gathered from the four directions, giving them the strength of powerful storms.

On occasion, the creator was unhappy with his creation and destroyed the people he had made. A hero named Condor and his sister survived the flood sent by Above-Old-Man, the Wiyot creator, to destroy his first creations; Condor and his sister became the ancestors of humans. Neshanu, the Arapaho creator, sent a flood to destroy humans who had become wicked, unwise, or disrespectful; he saved those he liked by turning them into grains of corn and planting them. Earthmaker, the Akimel O'odham creator, also sent a flood to destroy the people, who had become quarrelsome and selfish. A shaman named Suha and his wife survived the flood by sealing themselves inside a hollow ball of Spruce gum. They became the ancestors of the Akimel O'odham people. Tabaldak, the Abenaki creator, made the first people from stone but decided that he did not like them, so he destroyed the stone people and made new ones from wood.

While individual stories and common themes about the origins of humanity differ, there is a clear and universal concern about how humans came to be and the foundations of the world in which humans live. Origin myths represent humanity's attempt to find our place in the universe—to understand the mystery of life and achieve a sense of identity.

Document Source: Lynch, Patricia, and Jeremy Roberts. "Human Origin in American Indian Mythology." *Native American Mythology A to Z, Second Edition*, Chelsea House, 2010. *American Indian History*, online.infobase.com/Auth/Index?aid=17296&itemid=WE43&articleId=423591

1. According to Document 2, what are some different ways Native American traditions explain the creation or emergence of humans? Provide at least two examples.
2. What role do natural elements (such as animals, trees, mud/clay, or floods) play in Native American origin stories?
3. How do these origin myths help explain the cultural identity of different tribes or peoples?

Mapping Native American Territory

<https://native-land.ca/> - Use the map in the link provided to answer the following questions.

1. Click on the “**Native Land Map**” under the Maps tab in the top right corner of the homepage. Using current borders, which Native American tribes occupied land that is part of New Jersey? How many occupied land that is a part of Pennsylvania?

NJ:

PA:

2. Enter the name of your town in the “**Search Address**” box in the top left corner. Which tribe(s) occupied the land where you live?
3. Turn off the **Territories** filter and turn on the **Language** filter in the top left corner. How many languages were spoken across New Jersey and Pennsylvania?

PART II Research a Tribe

Assignment: You are to do research on one Native American tribe of people, write a paragraph below in proper form containing certain information about the tribe, answer questions about the source or sources you used for information.

1. Research: Using the first letter of your last name, find a Native American tribe who lived in the region marked next to your section of the alphabet.

- **A to D – The Northeast/Great Lakes**
- **E to G – The Southeast**
- **H to J – The Great Plains**
- **K to M – The Southwest**
- **N to P – The Great Basin**
- **Q to S – The Northwest Coast/Plateau**
- **T to V – Present Day California**
- **W to Z – Arctic/Subarctic**

2. Analysis: Read about the tribe you select and find three interesting facts about their culture. The facts should relate to what their society was like, so use the social sciences defined above as tools for analysis. Look for and be prepared to categorize the facts as they relate to

Sociology: How their society was organized; their dwellings and family units; the things they created and valued as art; their religious beliefs



Economics: What was the basis of their economy; how did they get what they needed to live; what did they hunt, make or grow; how did they use their environment; what did they trade and with whom; how did they exchange things (Money? Barter?)

Political Science: Describe their political system; Who was in charge; How did they choose leaders; Who had rights and who didn't; Did they make laws, or did someone rule them; Did the tribe have autonomy, or were they aligned with other tribes.

3. Paragraph: Write a paragraph that has the following structure:

- A Topic Sentence that names the Native American tribe and where they were (or are) located.
- The three interesting facts about them that you identified in the Analysis above using at least three but no more than a total of five sentences to explain the facts.
- A Clincher Sentence that summarizes what the tribe was like. **Type the paragraph in the space below, using your name and the tribe's name as the title.**

4. Source or Sources: Under the paragraph on the same document, identify the source or sources from which you got information for the paragraph. Examples of sources and the information needed are listed below.

- If it's from a book, the name of the book and the publisher.
- If it's from an internet site, the name of the article and the home page.
- If it's from a magazine or a newspaper, the name of the article, the name of the magazine or newspaper, and the date it was published

Note: You are not being asked to do a citation. You are being asked to identify and think about the type of source from which you got your information.

Write Paragraph Here:

PART III Native Americans Encounter Europeans

Crash Course: Native American History - First Contact

Watch the following video and answer the questions below.

▶ [The Truth About Columbus's "First Contact": Ep 10 of Crash Course Native American Hist...](#)

1. Why does the video describe the ideas of "first contact" and "discovery" as misnomers?
2. Describe the "Doctrine of Discovery." How did it impact later interactions between Native Americans and settlers?
3. What does the video state regarding the accuracy of blaming disease alone for the decline in Native American populations following European arrival?
4. According to the video, how did the reclassification of the Taino people by Spanish colonizers contribute to the misconception that Native people are extinct, and what was the colonizers' motivation for doing so?