

Native Americans

Tribes such as the Cherokee, Catawba, and Yemassee were significant groups of the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands who were the first to settle the South Carolina area. Europeans later settled the same area. The Native Americans and Europeans were sometimes able to work together, but they sometimes came into conflict.

Native American Groups

Eastern Woodland is the name given to describe Native American tribes that lived between the Appalachian Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean coastline. The Eastern Woodland Native Americans had their own **culture**, political systems, and daily life. An important part of the culture was the **diet** which was defined by **a hunter-gatherer** system for food, corn (sometimes called **maize**) as a main dish in their diet, and fish. Some other common characteristics were the use of **canoes** as transportation on waterways, a political system based on different **social classes**, and similar **religious beliefs** such as the afterlife and burial mounds.

Though members of the Eastern Woodlands division, the **Catawba** tribe in South Carolina has some distinct characteristics. The **Catawba** people are the largest tribe of Siouan speaking groups in the south. Their traditional homeland is near the northern border of the state, close to Rock Hill. They are known as the **river people** because their land is near the rivers of the Piedmont.

In conflict with the Catawba, were the **Cherokee**. The Cherokee are members of the **Iroquoian** family and lived mostly in the western edges of the state. One very distinctive aspect of the Cherokee culture was their emphasis on purification of **body** for religious ceremonies. This was usually accompanied by **black drink** (sometimes called tea), a natural mixture of yaupon leaves and branches which had similar properties to coffee. The **Cherokee** were one the largest groups in the language family. This was used as an advantage when working with **European** settlers like the **English** to prevent conflict over issues like land.

The final distinct group in South Carolina were the **Yemassee**, who lived in the southern coastal areas near the border of Georgia. The **Yemasee** were distinct in South Carolina because they lived in **wigwams** to use the resources of the coastal areas. The Yemassee were the largest tribe of the **Muskhogeian** language family. Like other members of this family, the Yemassee had moved north from Florida to try and escape the **Spanish** settlers.

Relations with others

Good relations among the different tribes and European settlers usually focused on beneficial **trading** partnerships. One profitable trade relationship was centered on **deerskins**. Native Americans would trade deerskins to settlers in exchange for **weapons**. The **deerskin** trade was so profitable that most of the colonial economy was dependent on it.

On the other hand, bad relations between the groups tended to focus on the issue of **land ownership**. Many times colonial governments would promise to stop settlements further west, and yet they were unable to prevent settlers. These tensions would eventually lead to **conflicts** between the Native Americans and **European settlers**.

Native Americans Wars in Colonial South Carolina

Conflicts between the tribes and settlers became violent in the early 1700s. One such conflict was the **Tuscarora War** from 1711 to 1715. Though technically occurring in North Carolina, this war impacted **South Carolina** as a result of soldiers from South Carolina being sent to support the settlers. As the fighting in North Carolina was ending, another conflict started in the south of the state. The **Yemassee War** of 1715 to 1717 was fought over **trade** disagreements. The Yemassee attacked settlements like **Port Royal** and **Pocotaligo**. In 1716, the Cherokee and other tribes decided to help settlers fight the Yemassee. The end result of this alliance was the almost total destruction of the **Yemassee** tribe or the migration of the survivors to areas further south.

Much later, the Cherokee would find themselves on the defensive against European settlers. The **Cherokee War** was a small conflict within the French and Indian War fought between 1759 and 1761. The Cherokee fought against the **English** in an attempt to prevent further expansion **westward**. The loss of the Cherokee and their French allies would effectively give control of the land to the **English**.

Cuming's Treaty

In an attempt to encourage an alliance with the British, Alexander Cuming brought seven **Cherokee chiefs** to England in 1730. The **treaty** was signed, and an alliance between the British and the Cherokee started.

Treaty of Saluda Old Town

In 1755, an army of settlers marched to Cherokee territory. This army made the Cherokee sign the **Treaty of Saluda Old Town**, in which the Cherokee gave up much of their **land** and recognized the **King of England** as their ruler.

Treaty of Augusta

The **Treaty of Augusta** was signed on November 10, 1763, between four colonial governors and **five** Native American tribes. The treaty set **boundaries** between the Native Americans and the **settlers**. Most of the Native Americans lost **land** in the agreement, but the **Catawba** were given a 15-square-mile **reservation** in South Carolina.

Native Americans

1. Which method did early Eastern Woodland Native Americans use to provide food for themselves?

- ☐ A. a raid and burn system
 - ☐ B. a hunting and gathering system
 - ☐ C. a stationary farming system
 - ☐ D. a crop and field rotation system
-

2. Most Eastern Woodland tribes' political and social systems were similar. Their societies were usually divided into classes, beginning with the chief, his children, the tribe's nobility, and finally the commoners. Which political and social system did most of the tribes practice?

- ☐ A. a class system
 - ☐ B. a republic
 - ☐ C. a monarchy
 - ☐ D. a caste system
-

3. Due to cultural beliefs, the Eastern Woodland tribes changed the land's features by

- ☐ A. building burial mounds for the dead.
 - ☐ B. creating battlefields for war.
 - ☐ C. cutting down trees to clear farming land.
 - ☐ D. building their houses and villages.
-

4. Which method did early Eastern Woodland Native Americans use to provide food for themselves?

- ☐ A. a stationary farming system
 - ☐ B. a raid and burn system
 - ☐ C. a hunting and gathering system
 - ☐ D. a crop and field rotation system
-

5.

- Known as the river people
- lived near the rivers of the Piedmont
- known for their pottery

Which Native American tribe is referred to by the list?

- ☐ A. Wateree
 - ☐ B. Cherokee
 - ☐ C. Yemassee
 - ☐ D. Catawba
-

6. Originally called black drink, this Native American beverage made from yaupon is called

- ☐ A. wine
 - ☐ B. tea
 - ☐ C. soup
 - ☐ D. coffee
-

7. An important aspect of Native American belief systems was

- ☐ A. a creator
 - ☐ B. the creation
 - ☐ C. the afterlife
 - ☐ D. mummification
-

8. What style of housing did the Yemassee build?

- ☐ A. tipi
 - ☐ B. wigwams
 - ☐ C. longhouses
 - ☐ D. pueblo
-

9. Which Native American nation was one of the most powerful Siouan speaking groups and lived on the border between North and South Carolina?

- ☐ A. Cherokee
 - ☐ B. Seneca
 - ☐ C. Catawba
 - ☐ D. Yemassee
-

10. Which crop was the most important part of an Native American diet?

- ☐ A. nuts
 - ☐ B. corn
 - ☐ C. squash
 - ☐ D. tobacco
-

11.



The Yemassee tribe live near which region?

- ☐ A. W
 - ☐ B. Y
 - ☐ C. Z
 - ☐ D. X
-

12.

- lasted from 1715 to 1717
- included an alliance of almost all the tribes living in South Carolina
- resulted in almost the total destruction of the Yemassee tribe

Which conflict is the list discussing?

- ☐ A. Powhatan Rebellion
 - ☐ B. Tuscarora War
 - ☐ C. Bacon's Rebellion
 - ☐ D. Yamasee War
-

13. The Cherokee worked with what European power to try and prevent settlers from taking over traditional tribal lands?

- ☐ **A.** Netherlands
 - ☐ **B.** England
 - ☐ **C.** Spain
 - ☐ **D.** France
-

14. The Cherokee were members of which language family?

- ☐ **A.** Iroquoian
 - ☐ **B.** Muskogean
 - ☐ **C.** Siouan
 - ☐ **D.** Algonquian
-

15.

- originally from Spanish Florida
 - lived along the southern coast
 - spoke the Muskogean language

Which Native American tribe is referred to by the list?

- ☐ **A.** Catawba
 - ☐ **B.** Shawnee
 - ☐ **C.** Cherokee
 - ☐ **D.** Yemassee
-