

# SOCIAL STUDIES NOTES



## LAND AND PEOPLE BEFORE COLUMBUS

### Section 2: North American Indians



Name _____	Period _____
Homeroom Teacher _____	

## Land and People Before Columbus

### *Section 2: North American Indians*

#### Critical Vocabulary Words

1. **kachina**: one of the spirits that was important to the Hopi and other Pueblo peoples.
2. **lodge**: circular house built over a shallow pit and covered with sod.
3. **legend**: story handed down over time, often to explain the past.
4. **tribute**: a payment demanded by the ruler of a people.
5. **diversity**: differences, such as those among different peoples.
6. **clan**: group of families that are related to one another.
7. **confederation**: loosely united group of governments.
8. **pit-house**: house built partly over a hole dug in the earth so that some rooms are underground.
9. **dugout**: boat made from a large hollowed-out log.
10. **travois**: a kind of carrier that is made up of two poles fastened to the harness of an animal.
11. **cultural region**: an area where peoples share the same way of life.
12. **shaman**: a religious leader and healer.
13. **Iroquois League**: a group of Iroquois tribes that worked together for peace.
14. **hogan**: cone-shaped house built by covering a log frame with mud or grass.
15. **council**: small group that makes laws.
16. **barter**: to exchange goods with other people.
17. **sod**: earth cut into blocks or mats and held together by grass and roots.
18. **potlatch**: special Native American gathering at which the hosts give away valuable gifts.
19. **arid**: a place that is very dry, like the southwest.
20. **longhouse**: a long wooden building in which several Indian families live together.
21. **totem pole**: a wooden post that is carved with shapes of people and animals to show a family's history.
22. **tepee**: A cone-shaped tent made of poles covered with animal skins.

## Land and People Before Columbus

### Section 2: North American Indians

#### Lesson 1: The Northwest Coast Cultural Region

1. The Northwest Coast cultural region contains much of western Canada, Alaska, and the states of Washington and Oregon.
2. Many of the Northwest Coast Indians lived along the Columbia River, which was one of the major trading centers in North America.
3. The Northwest Coast Indians would trade with other Indians groups.
4. They created a trading language, using signs, to be able to communicate.
5. Some Northwest Coast Indians hunted whales in huge dugouts made from whole trees.
6. They would use the blubber of the whales as fuel and would make lamps with wicks for light.
7. They used obsidian, or black volcanic glass as spears and harpoons.
8. Many Northwest Coast Indians carved totem poles that told the story of their family's history.
9. The Northwest Coast cultural region Indians are the most closely related to the ancient Indians who crossed the land bridge called Beringia.

#### Northwest Coast Cultural Region Information

<b>Tribes</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Clothing</b>	<b>Artifacts</b>
Chinook, Makah, Tlingit, Hidatsa	Salmon, fish, whale, sea lion, otter, goat, deer, elk, bear	cedar plank longhouses	Animal skin pants, leather aprons, potlatch hats, nose rings	wooden masks, woven cedar baskets, obsidian spear points

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### Section 2: North American Indians

#### Lesson 2: The Eastern Woodlands Cultural Region

1. On the opposite side of the country is the Eastern Woodlands cultural region.
2. This cultural region contains states from Maine to Florida.
3. The Eastern Woodlands cultural region was very populated so there were many wars over territory that continued out of revenge.
4. One tribe, the Iroquois, formed a Confederation of their five groups called the Iroquois League.
5. The Iroquois League was much like the republic and democracy that our government is today.
6. Some Eastern Woodlands Indians played a game they called Little War. French explorers called it lacrosse; it is still played today.
7. The Eastern Woodlands Indians were among the first Indians encountered by Europeans who came to settle and explore the New World, like the Pilgrims.

Eastern Woodlands Cultural Region Information				
Tribes	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Artifacts
Iroquois, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek	Corn, beans, squash, maple syrup, fish, deer, moose, acorns	Longhouses and wigwams	Deerskin breechcloths, leggings, skirts, moccasins	flint arrowheads, wampum shells, flint axe heads

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#### Lesson 3: The Southwest Cultural Region

1. The Southwest cultural region covered modern-day states like New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah and Arizona.
2. The dry, arid environment presented many hardships for the people who lived there.
3. Indians of the Southwest cultural region worked very hard to grow and build surpluses food.
4. They had to create a system of irrigation because droughts were very common.
5. Their culture and religion revolved around maize or corn.
6. Survival in the Southwest cultural region required the help and cooperation of all family members, even very small children and very old people.
7. Some Southwest Indians worshipped in kivas, which can be compared to our churches today.
8. They also worshipped Kachina dolls in ceremonies and dances. Religious leaders were called shaman.

Southwest Cultural Region Information				
Tribes	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Artifacts
Hopi, Zuni, Navajo, Apache	Corn, potatoes, wheat, fruit, sheep, fry bread	pueblos and hogans	deerskin breechcloths, leggings, skirts, moccasins, cotton woven fabrics	Woven baskets, obsidian spear points, turquoise beads

## Land and People Before Columbus

### Section 2: North American Indians

#### Lesson 4: The Great Plains Cultural Region

1. The Great Plains cultural region included modern-day states like North Dakota and South Dakota.
2. The Great Plains Indians hunted and worshipped the buffalo. Most of their culture revolved around this animal.
3. They depended on the buffalo as their main source of food, clothing, and shelter.
4. Most of the Great Plains Indians were nomads who followed buffalo herds.
5. Tribe members worked together to hunt and butcher the buffalo.
6. Before horses were brought to North America, Great Plains Indians drove buffalo herds off cliffs.
7. Great Plains Indians traded with other tribes for other necessary items and food.
8. Within the Great Plains Indian culture, all people were considered to be and were treated as equals.

Great Plains Cultural Region Information				
Tribes	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Artifacts
Sioux, Kiowa, Cheyenne, Pawnee	Buffalo, berries, roots, herbs	tepees	animal skin shirts, leggings, breechcloths, fringed dresses, moccasins	flint and obsidian spear points, buffalo bone tools, leather shields

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#### Lesson 5: North American Indians Today

1. It is important to remember that Native Americans are not merely part of the past.
  2. Some Native American Indians live on reservations land set aside for them by the government.
  3. Many live and work in cities, small towns, and suburbs.
  4. Native American Indians are citizens of the United States, as well as their native nations.
  5. Native American Indians take great pride in reviving tribal customs and culture.
  6. Throughout the world Native American Indians are known for their deep respect and conservation of the environment, and their dedication to its preservation.
  7. Poverty, drug abuse, and despair are part of the Native American culture today. Some of the highest alcoholism rates and suicide rates come from Native American reservations.
  8. Many Native Americans do not celebrate Thanksgiving.
  9. Twenty-five years after the Pilgrims first came to America, they went back on the treaties they made.
  10. Many Native Americans were killed or forced to leave their homes.
  11. For this reason, many Native Americans take part in ceremonies called the "National Day of Mourning" on Thanksgiving Day.
  12. Many Native Americans feel the coming of Europeans to the Americas marked the destruction of their culture.
  13. It is the loss of their culture they mourn on this day.
  13. It is believed that before Europeans came, there were over 18 million Native Americans
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living in North America.

14. Today, there are 5.2 million Native American Indians, representing 562 tribes living in the United States and Canada today.

229 are in Alaska, rest in 33 other states.

