

Who were the Native Americans?

The first people in the Americas arrived in North America across a frozen sea from Asia over twenty thousand years ago. They spoke many different languages and had many different customs. Some were hunters and gatherers; some became skilled farmers and clever builders, engineers and weavers. As different as the many tribes were, they all made incredible art, pottery, baskets and blankets. They created stories and poetry. They taught their kids about their beliefs and culture using games, myths, dance, and impersonation. Today, there are over 500 recognised Native American tribes in the United States alone. Tribes are ruled by representative tribal governments. Native Americans today have a variety of jobs, including doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, ministers, writers, artists, and workers of all sorts. But they also hold jobs like tribal leaders. Some children go to public school whilst some attend tribal school, especially tribal pre-school, where they learn about their traditions and history. Much of their heritage and culture has been lost, but much has been saved through the hard work of today's tribal leaders.



2. Who was Christopher Columbus and what was he well known for?

Christopher Columbus was an Italian world navigator, sailor and explorer whose travels and discoveries would change the world in many ways. Columbus encountered land with around two million inhabitants that was previously unknown to Europeans. He thought he had found a new route to the East, so he mistakenly called these people 'Indians'. Over the next few centuries, European powers colonised the Americas, seeking new land and trade opportunities.

Skills	Teacher Assessment	Self-Assessment
I can use sources of evidence to deduce information about the past		
I can describe features of the past including ideas, beliefs, and attitudes.		
I understand that no single source of evidence gives the full answer to questions about the past.		
I can compare different historical times and events.		

Famous Native Americans

- There were several very famous Native Americans:
- Pocahontas (1595-1617) – She was made famous by the Disney film about her friendship with the early American settlers of Jamestown, Virginia. Her 1614 marriage to settler John Rolfe was the first marriage between a Native American and non-native in American history.
 - Sitting Bull (1831-1890) – He was perhaps the most famous Native American Indian ever. This Sioux warrior is famed for his victory over the United States Army, led by General Custer, at the Battle of Little Bighorn.
 - Geronimo (1829-1909) – He was a famous Apache military and spiritual leader. For several decades he fought Mexican and United States forces who were trying to take over Apache territory.
 - Crazy Horse (1840-1877) – He was a great Sioux warrior and a leader in the Great Sioux War of 1876.

1. Who is Pocahontas and how did she help to bring peace to North America?

Key Vocabulary

Plains	A large area of flat land with few trees.
Buffalo	A heavily built wild ox with backswept horns, found mainly in the Old World tropics.
Polygamy	The practice or custom of having more than one wife or husband at the same time.
Divorce	The legal dissolution of a marriage by a court or other competent body.
Spirits	The non-physical part of a person manifested as an apparition after their death; a ghost. Also, a supernatural being that is celebrated and worshipped.
Totem Pole	A pole on which totems are hung or on which the images of totems are carved.
Dream Catcher	A small hoop containing a horsehair mesh, or a similar construction of string or yarn, decorated with feathers and beads, believed to give its owner good dreams.
Teepee	A portable conical tent made of skins, cloth, or canvas on a frame of poles, used by North American Indians of the Plains and Great Lakes regions.

Timeline

1492: Christopher Columbus discovers America

1607: Jamestown is founded. Captain John Smith taken captive by the Powhatan tribe and is saved from execution by Pocahontas

1613: Pocahontas is kidnapped by the Jamestown settlers and held ransom for the return of stolen weapons and English prisoners. She learns English and meets colonist John Rolfe.

1614: Pocahontas marries John Rolfe - this brings some peace between the settlers and the Powhatan tribe in Jamestown.

1788: Sacagawea is born - she grows up as a member of the Shoshone Tribe in the Rocky Mountains

1804: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark begin their expedition in St. Louis. Sacagawea and her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, help them by being their guides and interpreters.

1830: The Indian Removal Act is passed.

1835: The Second Seminole War, the longest and most expensive war that the US army ever fought in, begins.

1838: The Trail of Tears: Due to the Indian Removal Act, the Cherokee tribe are forcibly moved away from where they live by the United States government. They are made to march from North Carolina to Oklahoma. Around 4,000 Cherokees die during the journey

1842: The Second Seminole War ends. Around 1,500 men have been killed.

1881: Sitting Bull is forced to surrender, along with 186 members of his army. He is now a prisoner of war.

1883: Sitting Bull is released from prison.

1885: Sitting Bull begins touring with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

1890: Around 200 Native Americans, including women and children, are killed at the Wounded Knee Massacre.

1990: The Native American Languages Act allows the language to be used as a way of giving instructions in school. This also aims to preserve and protect Native American languages



3. Can you name some of the Native American tribes and describe where they lived?

4. How did Native Americans hunt?



5. Were Native Americans treated fairly by English Settlers? (Give your reasoning)