

# COMMON CORE Lessons & Activities

# NATIVE AMERICANS

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

# REPRODUCIBLE

*One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!*



## READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT

# Early Native Americans

Read the text and answer the questions.

The first people to live in North America are known as Native Americans. The first of these people are thought to have crossed over an ice bridge between Asia and North America – migrating into North America at Alaska – nearly 20,000 years ago.

Based on charred bones and arrowheads found at ancient sites, archeologists believe the first Native Americans were big-game hunters who hunted herds of large mammals. Because of their food source, archeologists also believe most early Native Americans lived a nomadic lifestyle, having no permanent home and traveling from one place to another in search of food.

As the Ice Age ended, and much of the ice melted, many large mammals died out. As the environment changed, the early Native American's subsistence, or methods of obtaining food, changed as well. Native Americans began to forage (hunt and gather) small animals and plants to eat.

Native Americans continued to move through North America, and 10,000 -15,000 years ago, they began to raise plants for food in what is now central Mexico. From there, agriculture spread to many areas of North America. This subsistence method, known as agriculture, changed the way Native American people lived. Agriculture allowed people to settle in one location and form communities. As they worked together, they developed new ideas and skills. As more and more people settled in one place, complex societies like the Mayan, Aztec, and Mississippian cultures formed.

1. Define nomadic and subsistence as they are used in the text.
2. List and define three subsistence methods used by Native Americans.
3. Match the following questions to whether they are best answered by paragraph 1, 2, 3, or 4 of the text. Then answer the questions.
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_ Why did Native Americans become hunter-gatherers?
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_ Where did the first Native Americans come from?
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_ How did agriculture impact people in North America?
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_ How did the subsistence method of the first Native Americans affect their lifestyle?

# Native American Culture

Choose one Native American tribe to research. Use at least two online resources to answer all the research questions and complete the graphic organizer. Draw a picture or paste an image to represent each topic. Then follow the instructions for writing and presentation.

## Southeast

Cherokee  
Seminole  
Chickasaw  
Choctaw  
Creek

## Northeast

Powhatan  
Algonquin  
Iroquois  
Pequot  
Wampanoag

## Great Lakes

Shawnee  
Huron  
Miami  
Oneida  
Ottowa

## Great Plains

Sioux  
Blackfeet  
Cheyenne  
Comanche  
Arapaho  
Dakota

## Northwest

Pomo  
Ute

## Pacific Northwest

Chinook  
Nez Perce

## Southwest

Navajo  
Apache  
Pueblo  
Hopi  
Mojave

## Research Questions

LOCATION: Where did they live? (region; type of housing)

FOOD: What did they eat? How did they get their food?

CULTURE: What cultural rituals were important to them?

ART: What artwork did this tribe make?

INTERACTION: How did the tribe interact with U.S. settlers? Did any tribe member(s) have significant impact on U.S. history? Describe.

## Writing & Presentation

- Organize your research into an informative visual such as a poster or digital slideshow. Write accompanying text to explain the culture of your Native American tribe.
- Give your presentation to your class.

After everyone gives their presentation, discuss Native American culture as a class and answer these questions:

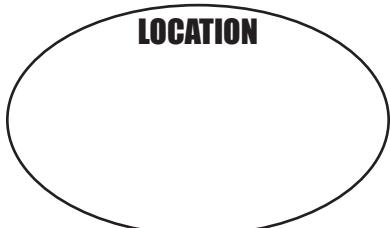
- Identify common themes and similarities between tribes.
- Describe major differences between the tribes.
- How did Native Americans impact the history of the U.S.?
- How were Native Americans impacted by the history of the U.S.?

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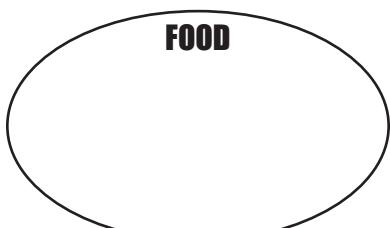
**LOCATION**

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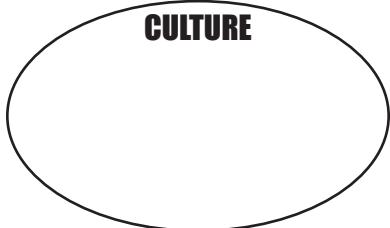
**FOOD**

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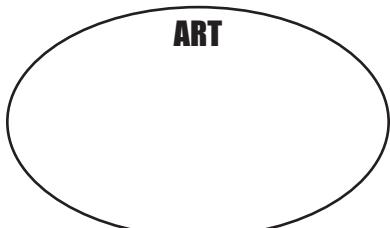
**CULTURE**

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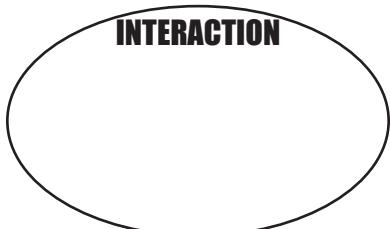
**ART**

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**INTERACTION**

# COMMON CORE Lessons & Activities

Are you expected to change how you teach because of new CCSS for English Language Arts & new CCSS for Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies and Science?

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