

Batna2 University
Department of English

Course: CCL

Level: 1st Year LMD

Groups: 1/2/3

Semester 2/ Academic Year: 2021/2022

I. Early America

Introduction

Evidence of early life in North America continues to be found. Little of it, however, can be reliably dated before 12,000 B.C. Artifacts have been found at sites throughout North and South America, indicating that life was well established in much of the Western Hemisphere by some time prior to 10,000 B.C.

1.The First Americans

Between 34,000 and 30,000 B.C., the Bering Sea was hundreds of meters below its current level, and a land bridge, known as Beringia, emerged between Asia and North America. At its peak, Beringia was covered with grasses that attracted the large animals that early humans hunted for their survival. The first people to reach North America did not know that they had reached a new continent. Once in Alaska, these first North Americans took thousands of years to work their way through the south to what is now the United States.

Around that time the mammoth began to die out and the bison took its place as a principal source of food for these early North Americans, in addition to different plants, berries, and seeds which became an increasingly important part of the early American diet. Native Americans in what is now central Mexico led the way, cultivating corn, squash, and beans, perhaps as early as 8,000 B.C. Slowly, this knowledge spread northward.

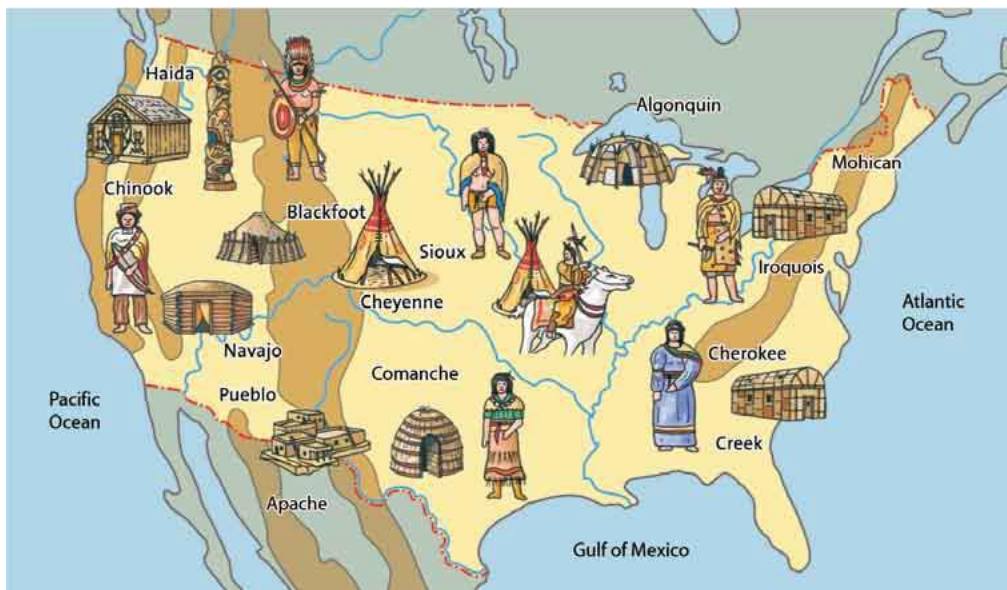
2. Native-American Cultures

America that greeted the first Europeans was not an empty wilderness. It is believed that many people lived in the Western Hemisphere. Estimates of the number of Native Americans living in what is now the United States at the onset of European colonization range from two to 18 million. The devastating European disease killed millions of the indigenous population from the

time of initial contact. Smallpox ravaged whole communities and is thought to have been a much more direct cause of the precipitous decline in the Indian population in the 1600s than the numerous wars and skirmishes with European settlers.

Indian customs and culture at the time were diverse given the expanse of the land and the many different environments to which they had adapted. Some generalizations, however, are possible. There were many different groups of Amerindians. Those of north Mexico in what is now the United States and Canada. They were scattered across the grasslands and forests in separate groups called tribes. These tribes followed very different ways of life. Some were hunters, some were farmers. Some were peaceful, others warlike. They spoke over three hundred separate languages.

At the time Europeans first began to arrive in North America, there were about 7 million Indians in what is today the United States and Canada. They spoke hundreds of different languages and lived in different ways. In the northeast the most powerful Indians were the Iroquois. In the Great Plains (from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains), most tribes, like the Sioux and the Cheyenne, were nomadic. In the southwest, some of the Pueblo people, like the Hopi, lived in villages and grew vegetables. But the Navajo and the Apache tribes, who came to this region from the north, were warriors who moved from one place to the next.





2. 1. The Pueblo

They live in Arizona and New Mexico. They are the best organized of the Amerindian farming peoples. They lived in towns on the sides and tops of cliffs for safety. They shared buildings made of adobe bricks. They made clothing and blankets from cotton and wore leather moccasins to protect their legs. For food they grew crops of maize and beans.

2.2. The Iroquois

There were six Iroquois tribes and they lived as farmers. With over 35,000 people they often defeated other Indian tribes in war. They lived far away from the pueblo and the Apache in the thick woods of north eastern north America. They were skilled farmers. They worked together growing beans, squash and varieties of maize. they were also hunters and fishermen. They used canoes to carry them along the rivers and lakes of their forest homeland. They lived in permanent villages in long wooden huts. They were fierce warriors. They were as feared by their neighbors as the apache were feared by theirs. They often fought one another. From boyhood, male Iroquois were taught to fear neither pain nor death. Bravery in battle was the surest way for a warrior to win respect and high position in his tribe.

2.3 The Sioux

On the vast plains of grass which stretched from the Mississippi river to the Rockies lived another warrior tribe. They called themselves Dakota, but they were better known by the name Sioux. They grew no crops and built no houses. For food, for shelter and for clothing they depended upon the buffalo. When the buffalo moved the Sioux moved. Everything the Sioux owned was designed to be carried easily. The tepee, the symbol of the Amerindians way of life was invented by the buffalo hunters of the western grassland.



3. Indian Life after the Arrival of the White Man.

European invasions of the Americas began with Columbus's voyages to the "New World" in 1492. The Europeans brought diseases with them, including smallpox and measles. These unfamiliar diseases spread quickly among Native Americans. They wiped out the populations of many native cities. The Europeans started colonizing the Americas in order to cultivate new farmlands and create new jobs for the growing populations of Europe. To do so, they often fought Native American tribal nations for the land. Several factors gave the Europeans the advantage in these conflicts. First, they had some immunities to their own diseases. Thus, they were not as devastated by them as Native Americans were. Second, the Europeans had horses and guns, which overpowered the Native Americans' hand weapons and arrows in battle. Third, European settlements in the Americas grew at such a rate that the Europeans' descendants eventually outnumbered the native people.

4. Arrival of the English

When the English arrived in North America in 1607, they created the colony of Jamestown in the territory of the Powhatan Indians. Many of the white people died during the first year from disease and hunger. Four more ships of people soon came, but in the winter of 1610 the English still did not have enough to eat. Some went to join the Indians, who knew how to grow food on this land.

The Indians began to worry about the large number of people who were arriving. Although they liked to trade with the settlers for horses and guns, many of them had died from diseases that the white people had brought with them. They were also forced to leave their territory. So, in 1622 one Powhatan tribe killed 347 white men, women and children, and from that time there was war between the Indians and the European settlers. The Europeans did not believe that the Indians had a right to the land.

The Pilgrims in Massachusetts were the only ones who were able to live in peace with the Indians. They learned how to plant corn and other food from the Indians. The Pilgrims then invited them to a big meal as thanks for their help. Today, the Indians' kindness to the European settlers and the settlers' feeling of thanks is celebrated during the holiday called 'Thanksgiving.

Native American tribal nations resisted colonization, but eventually, many were forced to surrender their lands. In the regions of present-day southern Canada, the United States, and

southern South America, survivors were gathered up and involuntarily moved to specific areas, called reservations. In Mexico, Central America, and northern South America, the native people were forced to live as peasants and laborers, under Spanish rule. In the last few decades, developments in transportation and earth-moving machinery have made it profitable for outsiders to colonize the tropical lowland forests. Now the way of life for those tribal nations, too, is threatened.

Today Native American populations across both continents are once again on the rise. Native American leaders are achieving greater political success in fighting for the rights of their peoples. In addition, recent widespread concern over human rights has prompted governments and others to respect Native American cultures and traditions when responding to their needs.

5. Continuous Struggle

By 1733 there were thirteen British colonies on the eastern coast of North America and over 100,000 Europeans. The population of the Powhatan Indians had fallen from 12,000 to 1,000. By 1776, when the colonies had become an independent country called the 'United States of America', the Europeans had moved west of the Appalachian Mountains. The new Americans pushed many Indian tribes further and further west and tried to teach them white culture.

The Indians fought hard to save their homes and their way of life, but they could not defeat the settlers. When Andrew Jackson became president, he gave the land west of the Mississippi River to the Indians; any Indians still in the east had to move there. The Cherokee tribe felt that they should be able to stay in the southeast because they had begun to live like the Americans. When they refused to leave, the army forced them out. While they were travelling west, 4,000 Cherokee died. Another 20,000 Indians from other tribes died, too. The Indians' journey to the west is called the 'Trail of Tears'. About 90,000 Indians moved to the new Indian Territory in Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska. The Indians who already lived there were unhappy about the new Indians in their territory. The result: wars between the tribes.

6. The Idea of 'Manifest Destiny'

Many Americans believed very deeply that God had given them the right to settle in North America; God wanted them to settle the continent from coast to coast. This idea was called 'Manifest Destiny'. That was one reason for moving West. Another was that people wanted land and adventure west of the Mississippi River, where Indian Territory began. In 1843, 1,000 people travelled to the Far West in covered wagons, on horses and on foot. Many hoped to find gold in

California and Oregon. The journey was 3,200 km and by 1860 about 260,000 people had arrived in the Far West. By that time another 4.2 million Europeans had settled in the USA and they were also moving west.

In the 1850s more and more fights between Indians and white settlers broke out. The Indians had to move from place to place to find buffalo, and they often met white settlers who had crossed the Mississippi into Indian Territory, were killing all the buffalo and were taking the land they wanted. The Indians wanted to protect their land and their way of life, so they attacked the Americans.

In the 1870s, gold seekers entered Sioux territory in south Dakota. Some of them were killed. The us army was sent to punish the Sioux. One of the army officers, George Custer did not believe reports about a very large number of Sioux and other tribes in the area. At the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, 2,000 Indian warriors killed over 250 soldiers under Custer. It was the biggest triumph against the whites in Native American history. But in the end, the US Army was too strong. At Wounded Knee, in 1890, fighting broke out for the last time and the Sioux chief and many men, women and children were killed. For the rest of the Sioux and many other Indian tribes, the only choice was to live on reservations.

7. The Indians Today

Today For hundreds of years Indians and settlers did not live together peacefully. But things have begun to change. In the 1960s people decided to call Indians ‘Native Americans’ because the word ‘Indian’ had been used negatively for so long. Today there are about 2.5 million Native Americans and another 1.5 million people who are part Native American in the United States. Less than half of them live on the 300 reservations in the US. Those who do are often very poor because they do not get a good education and they cannot find jobs. In some places they have made money and even become quite wealthy from casinos: There are special laws in the United States that give Indian reservations privileges that non-Indian lands don’t have, e. g. running casinos.

Tourism is also an important way to earn money. But only some Native Americans make money this way. More than half of the Native American population now lives in big cities because they can have a better life there. In cities there are often Indian centers that help them find jobs and organize cultural activities, which are very important to most Native Americans.

Conclusion

Indian are given many rights with time; they are allowed to have their own government, and some people even feel that they should have their own nation. But Native Americans fight to be part of the national government, too, so they can protect their lands and their culture.