



Grades 2-7

# American Indians

Unit Study



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# Welcome

Thank you for purchasing from A Journey Through Learning. We hope that you enjoy our unit study entitled North American Indians. Getting started is easy.

First, take the time to just browse through the pages to familiarize yourself with the layout. In this book, you will find several topics about North American Indians and their way of life.

Each topic has an:

- \* information page
- \* activity page(s)
- \* vocabulary study

## **Information Page**

Each of the topics has an information page to read to your child. You will notice that some of the words in the information pages are underlined.

## **Vocabulary Study**

The underlined words are vocabulary words. Read each sentence that contains the vocabulary word very carefully. It is important that your child hear the vocabulary words in context. Ask your child if he/she can get the meaning of the word from listening to the sentence it is contained in. Next, turn to the vocabulary pages in the back of the book. Here you will find an area for your child to write down the actual definition of each vocabulary word. Vocabulary study increases your child's knowledge of the topic!

## **Activity Page**

When your study of the topic is complete, it is time to go on to the activity that correlates with the topic. Some of these activities are more for fun while others are more challenging. All of them will enrich your child's understanding and knowledge of each topic.

We hope you and your child are blessed by this study! Please check our website frequently for new products!

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Thanks again,  
Paula Winget  
Nancy Fileccia

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## The First Americans

Many people claim that Christopher Columbus “discovered” America. The Native American Indians were around long before any of the explorers landed on the North American continent. American Indians varied considerably from region to region, as did their reactions to European settlements. Indian families lived in tribes. Each family was dependent on the other for survival. They lived by the customs and practices of their ancestors and used the land only as they needed it, believing it was sacred.

Around the 1500's, European explorers began to explore inland of the new found continent. They often were peaceful toward the Indians, but many times they were fearful and killed them. The new white men brought many new things to the Indians, such as copper, iron, metal for weapons, and new foods and plants. They also brought new diseases and war.

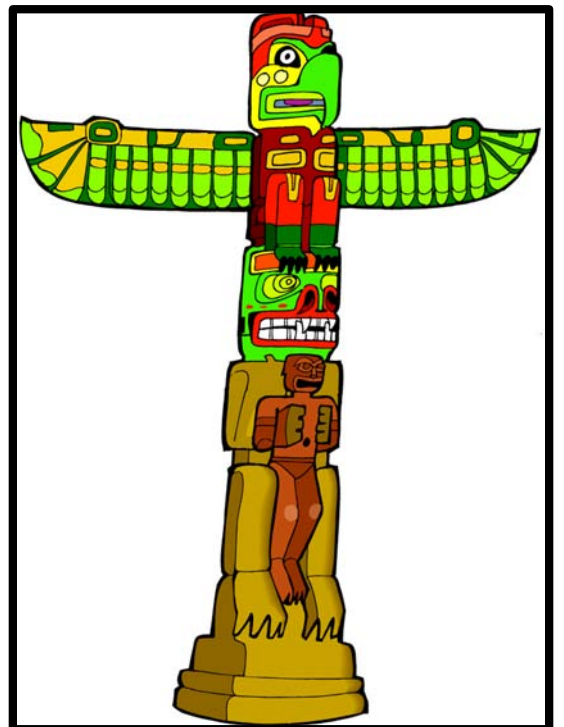
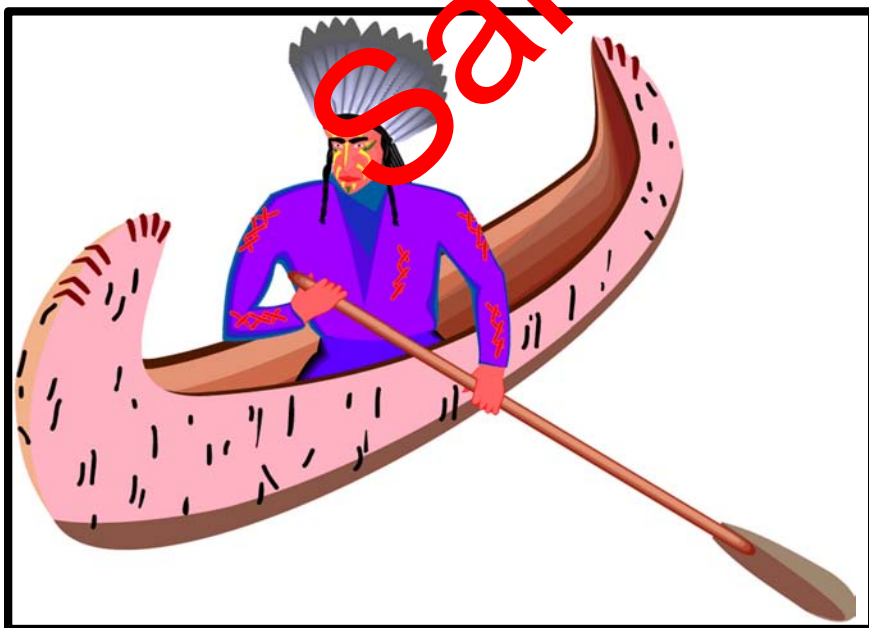
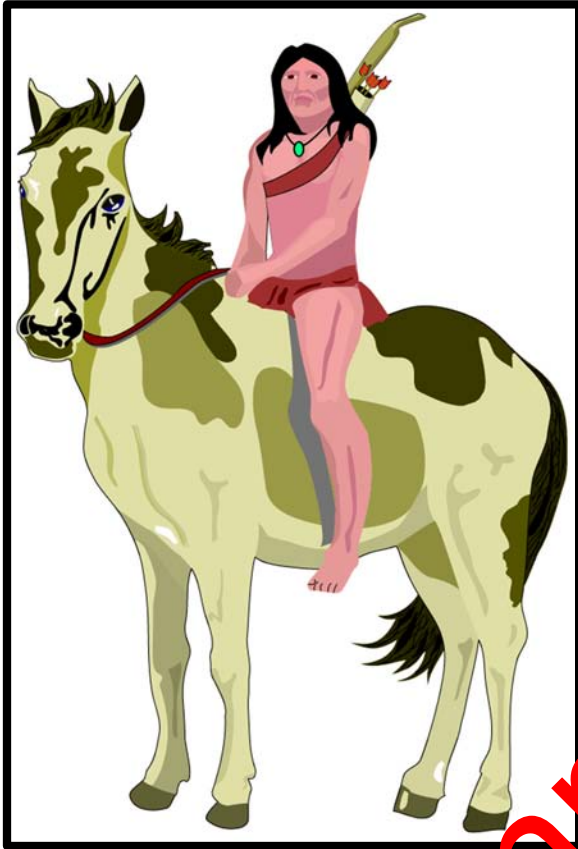
In 1776, the United States became a country. The Europeans no longer felt like a visitor to this land. They wanted to own all of it. There were more and more people coming over and more land was needed for their expansion. The military began taking what it wanted and began forcing the Indian tribes into extinction. Out of fear of the Indians, the Europeans tried to force the Indians to be like them, to be Christians, and to speak English.

Most Indians were forced from their homeland onto reservations. Often they were forced to walk hundreds of miles and were given very little food or clothing for the journey. Many Indians died while on the way to their new homes. The United States government began dividing the country during its expansion. Indians on reservations were given small plots of land. The rest of their land was taken over by settlers. This is why few tribes are left today.





Start by cutting out the figures on this page. You may either cut around the box or around the outline of each figure. Tape or glue a toothpick to the back of each figure. Roll a small amount of clay or play dough in to a ball. Stick the toothpick in it to stand your figures up. Now you can move them around to play. Then decorate the inside of a shoebox to look like an Indian village. Now you have an Indian Village diorama.



## Apache Indians

The Apache Indians lived in what is today Arizona and northern Mexico. They were known as fierce warriors who were constantly at war with the white man. They were nomads, often roaming the countryside for food. Since they were constantly on the move, their homes had to be simple to set up and take down. Wikipups were short round tents that were constructed out of twigs and mud. The exterior was covered with the dried hides of cows or buffalo. They were easy to put up and take down.

The Apache did not grow food. They were hunters and gatherers. Everything that they used and ate came from the wild. Hunting was done with bows and arrows. Deer, buffalo, and rabbit were their primary sources of food. In the winter, the women spent their time gathering berries, nuts, corn, and fruits from the fields. Even though the fish were very plentiful, the Apache did not consume fish. For transportation, they rode on horses.

The clothing that they wore was that of most Indians: moccasins, leggings, a loincloth, and a deerskin shirt.

In 1743, a Spanish leader gave an area of land in Texas for the Apaches to live on. To show that the war was over between the white man and the Indians, the chief took a hatchet and buried it in the ground. This is where we get the saying "burying the hatchet."



Mud Hut



Apache \_\_\_\_\_

What does the tribal name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

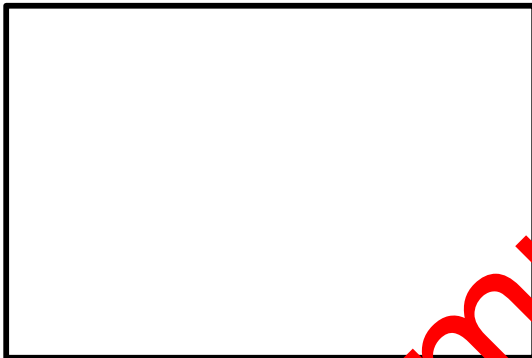
What foods did they grow? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

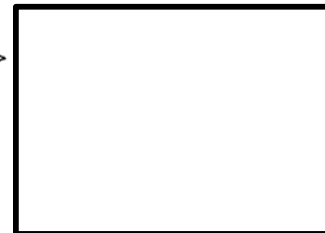
What habitat did they live in?

Draw a picture or find on one the internet.



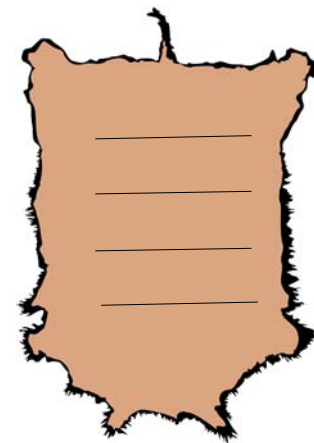
Who were their enemies? \_\_\_\_\_

What weapons did they use? \_\_\_\_\_  
Draw a picture or find on the internet. \_\_\_\_\_



What region of the United States did they live in? \_\_\_\_\_

Color the region on the map



What animals did they hunt.  
Write them on the pelt.

Sample Page



**Burden Baskets:** Apache baskets were colorful and well designed. They were woven from various plants. Some were lined with pitch, which is a natural waterproofing material made from pine trees. The waterproof baskets were used to carry water and other liquids. Baskets were used as storage containers for just about everything. Some were called burden baskets.

## Paper-woven Basket

You will need:

Thick paper or thin card  
(3 sheets of varying colors if desired)

Scissors

Pencils

Ruler 1. Cut 8 long strips from the paper or card: ( $2\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $\frac{4}{5}$ " )

1: You can use 4 strips of one color and four strips of another color.

2. Lay 4 of the strips side by side on a flat surface and weave in the remaining four. Make sure that the woven square is as tight as possible and that it is exactly in the middle of the strips.

3. Fold all the ends up to make the side spokes of the basket.

4. Now cut 4 more strips ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $\frac{4}{5}$ " ) and weave them in and out of the upright spokes.

Start weaving each new strip at a different corner. Note: You can hold the strips in place as you work with paper clips.

5. To make the upright weaving easier, you can fold each strip into quarters and place them like squares over the spokes one at a time.

6. When all 4 strips have been woven in, fold down the ends of the upright spokes and tuck them into or fold them under the weaving beneath on the outside of the basket.

7. A handle can now be added. Cut another long strip ( $12\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $\frac{4}{5}$ " ) and insert one end into the second square on one side of the basket and the other end into the third square on the opposite side of the basket. Fold round the ends until the handle is secure.



# Geronimo

Geronimo was a member of the Apache tribe. He was known as an aggressive and fearless man. The Apaches were considered the last American Indian fighting force in United States. Geronimo fought hard against the new settlers.

On March 5, 1851, while Geronimo and his men were out hunting, a company of 400 soldiers from Sonora, led by Colonel Jose Maria Carrasco, attacked Geronimo's camp. They killed many Indians including Geronimo's wife, Alope, his children, and his mother.

In 1875, all Apache tribes were ordered to leave their homes and move onto a reservation. Geronimo escaped numerous times. Each time he escaped, he would return on his own; not one time did he ever surrender.

On his last escape, the white men looked for him for over a decade. It was said that at one time there were over 5,000 U.S. troops, 500 scouts, and 3,000 Mexicans searching for him. He was finally found in a mountain hideout.

Geronimo's final surrender was in 1886. Geronimo and over 300 Chiricahuas were shipped to Fort Marion, Florida. One year later, they were moved to the Mt. Vernon barracks in Alabama. Here, many died from tuberculosis. Geronimo died on Feb. 17, 1909, a prisoner of war. He was buried in the Apache cemetery.



GERONIMO.

## The Caddo Indians

The Caddo Indians lived in east and northeast Texas. This region of Texas is called “the pine forest”. It stretches from the Atlantic Ocean across the South and into East Texas. The Caddo Indians were farmers. Their farms and villages were near flowing creeks or springs with fresh water. They were considered sedentary because they lived in permanent housing.

Unlike most Indians who moved to follow the herds of buffalo or other animals, they stayed in one place. They lived off their crops. They planted corn, beans, and squash. They also hunted deer, turkey, rabbits, squirrels, and other animals in the woods around them. The main food source for them was the buffalo. They did not waste any part of the animal. They would dry the meat to preserve it. This way they would have meat even in the middle of winter. They used the skins to make robes and clothing. The hair was used for blankets.

The Caddo Indians were, for the most part, a friendly tribe. They did not have many enemies to the west and south of them. However, the Osage Indians that lived to the north were their enemies.

The Caddo Indians did not live in teepees like most Indians. They lived in tall, cone-shaped grass huts. The huts were made from a wood frame and covered with cut cane and long grasses. Inside the huts was nice hand-made furniture and floors covered with woven grass and split cane mats. Many families usually lived together in one hut.

The Caddo Indians made and used farming tools in their fields. They had hoes, shovels, axes, saws, and drills. For weapons, they had bows and arrows.





Caddo \_\_\_\_\_

What does the tribal name mean? \_\_\_\_\_

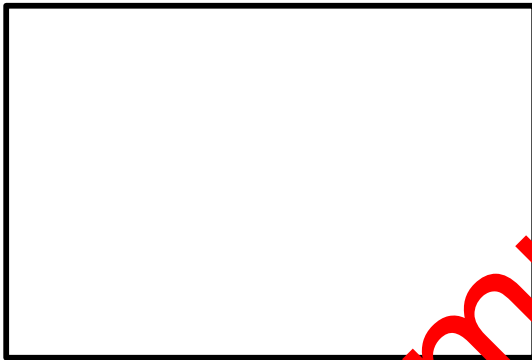
What foods did they grow? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

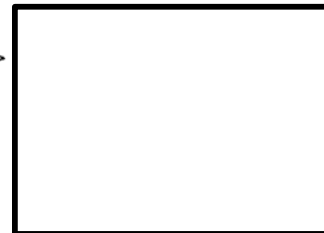
What habitat did they live in?

Draw a picture or find on one the internet.



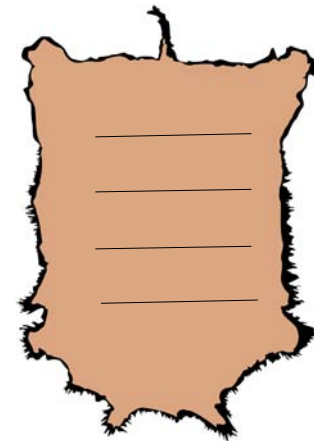
Who were their enemies? \_\_\_\_\_

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What region of the United States did they live in? \_\_\_\_\_

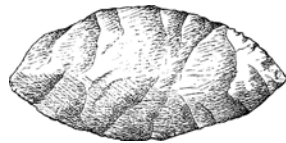
Color the region on the map.



What animals did they hunt?  
List them on the pelt.

Sample Page

The Caddo Indians were great farmers. They were very advanced in the tools that they used. They are known to have had tools like hoes and digging sticks. Because they lived in the woods, they had many wood working tools like axes, planes, drills and saws. They made beautiful polished stone axes. For weapons, they had bows and arrows. Using clay and sticks, see what tools you can come up with.



Sample Page

Draw a picture of your tool. Write what your tool would have been use for.