

NATIVE AMERICANS

Watch the video on the *National Geographic Kids* website and answer these questions.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/history-kids/native-americans-kids/>

1. When did Native Americans arrive in North America?
2. Where did they come from?
3. What did they do to live?
4. How did they arrive to North America?
5. What animals did they hunt?
6. What did they cut down trees for?
7. When did the white settlers arrive?
8. Why did many Native Americans die at the beginning?
9. What did the Native Americans and the settlers fight each other for?
10. Where did the U.S Government force the Native Indians to move to? When?
11. What did American Indians fight for in the nineteenth century?
12. How many tribes are there today?
13. What do they want to improve and preserve?

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Script of the National Geographic video

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They were the first people ever to live in North America. Exactly when they came and how they arrived is still a mystery; but many scientists believe that as long as 30,000 years ago some hunters from Asia walked or sailed along the coast of a land bridge that once connected Russia to Alaska. Their descendents became known as Native Americans or American Indians.

As they spread out over the vast continent, Native Americans adapted to live in different regions and hundreds of unique cultures were born. The plain Indians hunted buffalos by stampeding them over cliffs. On the Northern Pacific Coast tribes like the Idaho and the Kwakiutl sailed the ocean and fished. They cut down giant red cedar trees for their houses, dug out canoes and ceremonial totem poles.

When the first white settlers arrived in the 1500, about a million Native Americans lived North of Mexico; but the outsiders changed everything. Diseases from Europe such as smallpox and tuberculosis laid down entire tribes.

Settlers began to claim Indian lands for themselves. Some tribes resisted and fought back, others attempted to cooperate. In the end the result was the same: in the late 1800 the US government forced the remaining Indians to leave their traditional homelands and live on tracks of land called reservations.

Over the next century Native Americans continued to fight for their rights through political activism. Today there are more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the U.S.

Native Americans are working to improve living conditions on the reservations and to preserve their languages, religions and cultural identities. The Potlatch a religious ceremony that was once banned by the Canadian Government is being held again by the Kwakiutl. On the Navaho reservation some ancient ways are blended into modern lives. This sand painting depicts the cloud people: it's been created to pray for the safety of a group travelling by airplane. Other Navaho artists are reviving their tribes' traditional art forms, a movement which could help this unique culture to survive to the next century.