

# American Indian History

## Theme: American and National Identity

- Analyze relationships among different regional, social, ethnic, and racial groups, and explain how these groups' experiences have related to U.S. national identity.

## Theme: Culture and Society

- Explain how different group identities, including racial, ethnic, class, and regional identities, have emerged and changed over time.

## Theme: Geography and Environment

- Explain how geographic and environmental factors shaped the development of various communities, and analyze how competition for and debates over natural resources have affected both interactions among different groups and the development of government policies.

## Period 1: 1491-1607

### Required Information

1. Different native societies adapted to and transformed their environments through innovations in agriculture, resource use, and social structure.
2. The Columbian Exchange and development of the Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere resulted in extensive demographic, economic, and social changes.
  - Spanish exploration and conquest of the Americas were accompanied and furthered by widespread deadly epidemics that devastated native populations and by the introduction of crops and animals not found in the Americas.
  - In the *encomienda* system, Spanish colonial economies marshaled Native American labor to support plantation-based agriculture and extract precious metals and other resources.
  - The Spanish developed a caste system that incorporated, and carefully defined the status of, the diverse population of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans in their empire.
3. In their interactions, Europeans and Native Americans asserted divergent worldviews regarding issues such as religion, gender roles, family, land use, and power.
  - Mutual misunderstandings between Europeans and Native Americans often defined the early years of interaction and trade as each group sought to make sense of the other. Over time, Europeans and Native Americans adopted some useful aspects of each other's culture.
  - As European encroachments on Native Americans' lands and demands on their labor increased, native peoples sought to defend and maintain their political sovereignty, economic prosperity, religious beliefs, and concepts of gender relations through diplomatic negotiations and military resistance.
  - Extended contact with Native Americans and Africans fostered a debate among European religious and political leaders about how non-Europeans should be treated, as well as evolving religious, cultural, and racial justifications for the subjugation of Africans and Native Americans.

### **Optional Information**

4. Native American Societies
  - Pueblo
  - Chinook
  - Iroquois
  - Algonquin
5. Racially Mixed Populations
  - Mestizo
  - Zambo
6. smallpox
7. *encomienda* system
8. Juan de Sepúlveda
9. Bartolomé de Las Casas

## **Period 2: 1607-1754**

### **Required Information**

10. Spanish, French, Dutch, and British colonizers had different economic and imperial goals involving land and labor that shaped the social and political development of their colonies as well as their relationships with native populations.
  - Spanish efforts to extract wealth from the land led them to develop institutions based on subjugating native populations, converting them to Christianity, and incorporating them, along with enslaved and free Africans, into the Spanish colonial society.
  - French and Dutch colonial efforts involved relatively few Europeans and relied on trade alliances and intermarriage with American Indians to build economic and diplomatic relationships and acquire furs and other products for export to Europe.
  - English colonization efforts attracted a comparatively large number of male and female British migrants, as well as other European migrants, all of whom sought social mobility, economic prosperity, religious freedom, and improved living conditions. These colonists focused on agriculture and settled on land taken from Native Americans, from whom they lived separately.
11. Competition over resources between European rivals and American Indians encouraged industry and trade and led to conflict in the Americas.
  - An Atlantic economy developed in which goods, as well as enslaved Africans and American Indians, were exchanged between Europe, Africa, and the Americas through extensive trade networks. European colonial economies focused on acquiring, producing, and exporting commodities that were valued in Europe and gaining new sources of labor.
  - Continuing trade with Europeans increased the flow of goods in and out of American Indian communities, stimulating cultural and economic changes and spreading epidemic diseases that caused radical demographic shifts.
  - Interactions between European rivals and American Indian populations fostered both accommodation and conflict. French, Dutch, British, and Spanish colonies allied with and

armed American Indian groups, who frequently sought alliances with Europeans against other Indian groups.

- British conflicts with American Indians over land, resources, and political boundaries led to military confrontations, such as Metacom’s War (King Philip’s War) in New England.
- American Indian resistance to Spanish colonizing efforts in North America, particularly after the Pueblo Revolt, led to Spanish accommodation of some aspects of American Indian culture in the Southwest.

12. Transatlantic commercial, religious, philosophical, and political exchanges led residents of the British colonies to evolve in their political and cultural attitudes as they became increasingly tied to Britain and one another.

- The British government increasingly attempted to incorporate its North American colonies into a coherent, hierarchical, and imperial structure in order to pursue mercantilist economic aims, but conflicts with colonists and American Indians led to erratic enforcement of imperial policies.

### **Optional Information**

13. Metacom’s War (King Phillip’s War), 1675-1676

14. Pueblo Revolt, 1680

## **Period 3: 1754-1800**

### **Required Information**

15. The competition among the British, French, and American Indians for economic and political advantage in North America culminated in the Seven Years’ War (the French and Indian War), in which Britain defeated France and allied American Indians.

- Colonial rivalry intensified between Britain and France in the mid-18th century, as the growing population of the British colonies expanded into the interior of North America, threatening French–Indian trade networks and American Indian autonomy.
- After the British victory, imperial officials’ attempts to prevent colonists from moving westward generated colonial opposition, while native groups sought to both continue trading with Europeans and resist the encroachments of colonists on tribal lands.

16. In the decades after American independence, interactions among different groups resulted in competition for resources, shifting alliances, and cultural blending.

- Various American Indian groups repeatedly evaluated and adjusted their alliances with Europeans, other tribes, and the U.S., seeking to limit migration of white settlers and maintain control of tribal lands and natural resources. British alliances with American Indians contributed to tensions between the U.S. and Britain.
- An ambiguous relationship between the federal government and American Indian tribes contributed to problems regarding treaties and American Indian legal claims relating to the seizure of their lands.
- The Spanish, supported by the bonded labor of the local American Indians, expanded their mission settlements into California; these provided opportunities for social mobility among soldiers and led to new cultural blending.

### **Optional Information**

17. French and Indian War, 1754-1763

18. Pontiac's Rebellion, 1763
19. Proclamation Line of 1763
20. Paxton Boys, 1764
21. Iroquois Confederation
22. Battle of Fallen Timbers, 1794
23. Treaty of Greenville, 1795

## **Period 4: 1800-1848**

### **Required Information**

24. Struggling to create an independent global presence, the United States sought to claim territory throughout the North American continent and promote foreign trade.
  - Following the Louisiana Purchase, the United States government sought influence and control over North America and the Western Hemisphere through a variety of means, including exploration, military actions, American Indian removal, and diplomatic efforts such as the Monroe Doctrine.
  - Frontier settlers tended to champion expansion efforts, while American Indian resistance led to a sequence of wars and federal efforts to control and relocate American Indian populations.

### **Optional Information**

25. Tecumseh
26. Battle of Tippecanoe, 1811
27. Indian Removal Act, 1830
28. Black Hawk
29. *Worcester v. Georgia*, 1832
30. Trail of Tears. 1838
31. Seminole Wars, 1814-1819, 1835-1842

## **Period 5: 1844-1877**

### **Required Information**

32. Popular enthusiasm for U.S. expansion, bolstered by economic and security interests, resulted in the acquisition of new territories, substantial migration westward, and new overseas initiatives.

- The U.S. added large territories in the West through victory in the Mexican-American War and diplomatic negotiations, raising questions about the status of slavery, American Indians, and Mexicans in the newly acquired lands.

33. In the 1840s and 1850s, Americans continued to debate questions about rights and citizenship for various groups of U.S. inhabitants.

- U.S. government interaction and conflict with Mexican Americans and American Indians increased in regions newly taken from American Indians and Mexico, altering these groups' economic self-sufficiency and cultures.

### **Optional Information**

34. Sand Creek Massacre, 1864

35. Crazy Horse

36. Sitting Bull

37. Little Big Horn, 1876

38. Chief Joseph's surrender, 1877

## **Periods 6 and 7: 1865-1945**

### **Required Information**

39. Larger numbers of migrants moved to the West in search of land and economic opportunity, frequently provoking competition and violent conflict.

- As migrant populations increased in number and the American bison population was decimated, competition for land and resources in the West among white settlers, American Indians, and Mexican Americans led to an increase in violent conflict.
- The U.S. government violated treaties with American Indians and responded to resistance with military force, eventually confining American Indians to reservations and denying tribal sovereignty.
- Many American Indians preserved their cultures and tribal identities despite government policies promoting assimilation, and they attempted to develop self-sustaining economic practices.

### **Optional Information**

40. Great Sioux War, 1876-1881

41. Helen Hunt Jackson, *A Century of Dishonor*, 1881

42. Geronimo's surrender, 1886

43. Dawes Severalty Act, 1887

44. Ghost Dance

45. Massacre at Wounded Knee, 1890

46. Snyder Act, 1924

47. Wheeler-Howard Act, 1934

## **Periods 8 and 9: 1945 to the Present**

### **Required Information**

48. Responding to social conditions and the African American civil rights movement, a variety of movements emerged that focused on issues of identity, social justice, and the environment.

- Latino, American Indian, and Asian American movements continued to demand social and economic equality and a redress of past injustices.

### **Optional Information**

49. Latinos, American Indians, and Asian Americans began to demand social and economic equality and a redress of past injustices.

50. American Indian Movement (AIM), 1968

51. Dennis Banks

52. Russell Means

53. Alcatraz, 1969

54. Wounded Knee, 1973

55. Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 1974