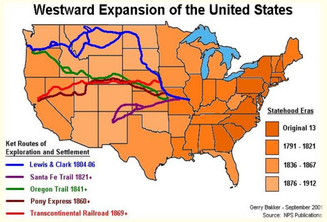
Native Americans:
A Look into the Lives of Native Americans in North America

MANIFEST DESTINY

Manifest destiny was an American belief that the United States had a God given right to expand across the continent.



WESTWARD EXPANSION

With the new found epistemology that God had granted them the right to expand westward, Americans began their journey to the west, which directly impacted the lives of Native Americans.

THE 5 "CIVILIZED" TRIBES

Largest American Indian tribes

Navajo: 308,013
Cherokee: 285,476
Sioux: 131,048
Chippewa: 115,859
Choctaw: 88,913

WHERE ARE THEY FROM & HOW DID THEY GET HERE?

Initially the Americas were not inhabited by human beings. The Americas was once a desolate land with wildlife but no humans.

The first people to come inhabit the Americas were the nomads. Nomads by definitions are groups of people who didn't have a permanent place of residence. They would travel from one place to another.

Nomads traveled from place to place following livestock. The Nomads followed livestock because wherever the animals were going there was food.

By following their livestock they eventually crossed the land bridge from Asia to Alaska and from there dispersed all through North, Central, and South America.

TRAIL OF TEARS

In 1838 and 1839, as part of Andrew Jackson's Indian removal policy, the Cherokee nation was forced to give up its lands east of the Mississippi River and to migrate to an area in present-day Oklahoma. The Cherokee people called this journey the "Trail of Tears," because of its devastating effects. The migrants faced hunger, disease, and exhaustion on the forced march. Over 4,000 out of 15,000 of the Cherokees died.

SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Native Americans were a heterogeneous . They were diverse in character. Some groups of Native Americans were very peaceful while others were war hungry.

They believe everything is sacred from the largest mountain to the smallest plant and animals The natives educated the young by storytelling and games designed to work on hunting skills.

Spiritually. the natives were about honor, love and respect. to them it is about being in touch with themselves and the nature around them. Unlike the Europeans, the Native Americans seemed to have no desire in building kingdoms.

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AMERICAN IMPACT

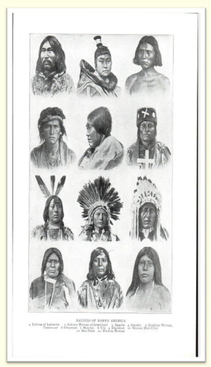
Native Americans have a lower overall high school graduation rate: about 65 percent earn a high school diploma Their college graduation rate is also much lower, with 9.3 percent earning a college degree compared with the national average of 20.3 percent.

One way the Native Americans have been able to revamp themselves from extinction are casinos. After some years of exposure: young adults are moving back to reservations, fueling an 11.5% population increase; employment has increased 26 %; and there has been a 14% decline in number of working poor.

Native Americans teach their children about the traditions of the tribes, to hunt and fish, and to open new businesses. They also pass down their traditions, such as native dances, to their children.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES:

APACHE
BLACKFOOT
CHEYANNE
CROW
NEZ PERCE
SHAWNEE



ARAPAHO
CHEROKEE
COMANCHE
NAVAJO
PAWNEE
SHOSHONE
SIOUX

DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

The Europeans limited native American's resource to having ownership of their land.

Distributive Justice refers to a set of rules, set forth by the social elite, which govern the use, distribution and access to resources in every social group. The Europeans limited native American's resource to having ownership of their land.

Native American epistemology governs their views and beliefs, thus they higher appreciation for the land and what it can provide them. They attached a spiritual component to their land and, as a result, approach the sale of those lands with great apprehension. However, they were not an advanced people; they lacked access to distributive justice based on their environment, where as the Europeans

EXPERIENCE WITH EUROPEANS

Native Americans learned about Christianity. They were also exposed to diseases that they had no natural immunity against such as chicken pox, small pox and measles.

They were exposed to different kinds of trade, including slave trade; buffalo robes; and leather. In turn, they also traded in horses, sword blades for lances, wool blankets, horse gear, turquoise, and agricultural products (dried pumpkin, corn, and bread).

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