

Although the majority of Native Americans lived in the Eastern Woodlands, the Indians had diverse lifestyles in which to hunt, and fish and gather were predominant in general the Eastern Woodlands Indians tended to be hunters and farmers.

The men spent their time making tools and arrows, some hunting, some fishing. The women made goods such as pottery, baskets, and clothing. The men and women worked together to build their homes. Because of the type of environment, the area yielded an extraordinary wealth of food.

In addition to the cultivated fields and vegetables, the Eastern Woodlands also raised berries, corn, beans, and squash for the winter. Although deer meat was the main staple, fish was also supplemented by other game and shellfish.

The Indians of the Eastern Woodlands constructed several different types of houses. The most popular was probably the wigwam or bark-covered house. Another type was the longhouse, which served as homes for several families. Some societies also lived in oval or round houses made of clay. This was applied in the Midwest and New England, but was not used in the Southeast or Florida.

The Seminoles of Florida used a chibcha. This was a domed without walls. Instead the sides were finished with the palmetto tree's fan-shaped leaves.

Since deer was the major ingredient in the Northeast Indian diet, it is only natural that the deerskin would serve as the main garment for their clothes. Several types of clothing were made from the animal's skin. The women would cut the skins into first dresses or blouses and sew them with animal skins.

The Indians of the Eastern Woodlands often wore moccasins, which were made of animal skins. This was a very important part of their life.

Since horses were not introduced until after the Spanish brought them, the tribes found it necessary to find other means of transportation. It was easy to distinguish which tribe came from the East or West by the animals they used. In general, the northern tribes created back packs or sleds while southern tribes did not create from tree trunks.

On land, the natives traveled on foot and bore their cargo on their backs, having no pack animals. Dogs were their sole domesticated animals.

The art of the Northeast Indians can be seen in the clothing that they constructed. Made primarily from animal skins, they were used for protection and decoration of the clothes. Furthermore, they constructed beautiful back packs that were made from animal resources.

The Northeast Indian beliefs were based on a central Great Spirit called Manitow. Manitow was a benevolent figure who created the world from mud following and descending of the clouds. Furthermore, they constructed beautiful back packs that were made from animal resources.

The Northeast Indians believed that the Great Spirit was the creator of all things and that all life was created by him. They believed that the Great Spirit was the creator of all things and that all life was created by him. They believed that the Great Spirit was the creator of all things and that all life was created by him.



The topography and climate of the Northeast Coast was unique. The region was characterized by its proximity to the ocean, which provided a wealth of resources for the Northeast tribes to build their homes, which were often constructed from wood.

The Northeast Coast tribes relied heavily on fishing for survival. However, they were also engaged in hunting waterfowl and other game, including deer, bear, and elk. Various plants and other things grew abundantly along the coast supplemented these primary food sources.

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In the Pacific Northwest the natives tended to be rather wild. It was during the winter months that most of the hunting took place. Some of the best examples of wood craftsmanship can be seen in the Chilkat Indians. They were magnificent carvers of ceremonial regalia that were created with exceptional artistry. They were known for their crests that represented the owner's heritage and were usually 10 feet long. When worn in ceremonial dances, the masks, crests and figures inspired an awe and respect for life. As the dancer moved, the imagery on the masks slowly came to life. Each symbol had a story to tell and together they represented and affirmed the clan's identity and history.

Everything they needed was easily accessible to the Indians who lived along the shores of the Pacific Ocean. For this reason the Northwest tribes rarely ventured inland. Their main means of transportation was often boats that they carved from trees. They were also known for their canoes and their ability to play a significant role in the western life.

The wealth of natural resources that the Northwest region offered reduced the demand on time and energy the native peoples had to devote to meeting their survival needs. The Northwest Coast tribes were known for their art and their ability to create objects of great beauty. They developed wood carving and basketry and other arts that were highly valued. They also had a rich tradition of oral storytelling and song.

During the winter months, when less outdoor work was available, Northwest Indians used the additional time to create the extraordinary carvings, weavings, and sculptures which they are known for. They placed these objects prominently throughout their homes and ceremonial buildings and objects of light and shadow. Their tradition of highlighting and adorning ceremonial objects was also evident in the ancient regalia they designed and wore during ceremonial dances. The practice was of the most sophisticated, dramatic, and important ceremonies of the Northwest Coast and served a variety of religious and social purposes.



Thousands of years ago great fertile prairies existed from Southern Canada to Texas and from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi river. It was here that the first great herds of buffalo lived. The Plains people built their life around these animals. Developing a very sophisticated hunting technique known as "buffalo hunting".

The life of the Plains Indians revolved around the buffalo that roamed the region. Because of this dependence, culture, village and tribes moved along with the herd migration. So vital was the animal that virtually no part of the slain buffalo was wasted.

The Great Plains Indians lived in tipis because they were easy to dismantle and as good as a fire that was used to follow the buffalo. A tipi is a tent resembling the shape of a cone. It was originally made of animal skins or bison hide. It was remarkably durable, and gave warmth and comfort to its inhabitants during harsh winters. Because of the tipi's construction, it was dry during heavy rains, and could be used during the hot summer. It was very portable, which was an important factor since Great Plains Indians were highly mobile, and could be broken down and packed away quickly when a tribe decided to move. It could also be constructed just in a quickly when a tribe settled in an area.

The majority of clothes constructed by the Great Plains Indians were made from deer and antelope skins. These skins were abundant and they created the clothes like leather that was very close to associate with the game of Indians.

Until the availability of the horses, the movement was usually done by foot. However, the introduction of the horse changed everything. Suddenly, many of the tribes were able to travel great distances in order to hunt, trade, and raid. As a consequence for movement and trade became more and more evident, the use of the horse became even more important. Horses were used for many purposes, including for trade and as a means of transport. Horses quickly became a symbol of a person's wealth and a source of pride.

Plains Indians were intensely spiritual people. In a way that precluded the inclusion of a pantheon of gods, they were deeply religious. Their religious beliefs were based on a central Great Spirit who created the world and all life. They believed that the Great Spirit was the creator of all things and that all life was created by him. They believed that the Great Spirit was the creator of all things and that all life was created by him.

The art of the Plains Indians was greatly influenced by their culture which was in turn influenced by the buffalo and the horse. Life and death were very important to the Plains Indians. The majority of artistic endeavors, however, the majority of artistic endeavors were done in the form of objects that were highly valued. They also had a rich tradition of oral storytelling and song.



The Southwest Indians obtained food from four main sources: hunting wild animals, gathering wild plants, growing domesticated plants, and interaction with neighboring peoples for livestock and agricultural products through trading or raiding.

In the different tribes lived in different environments, the particular types of food eaten varied according to their respective environment. However, agriculture was one of the main sources of food on which Southwest Indians subsisted.

Hunting was done primarily by men. The men hunted deer, antelope, and other big game.

Southwest Indian food was in one of four different types of housing. The first of which is the tipi for those that lived near the plains. The second is the wickiup, an oval or round house made of brush and animal skins. The third is the pueblo, which was an important factor since Great Plains Indians were highly mobile, and could be broken down and packed away quickly when a tribe decided to move. It could also be constructed just in a quickly when a tribe settled in an area.

Southwest Indian clothing was traditionally woven. They also incorporated animal skins as part of their attire. Traditionally, they adorned animal hides with intricate designs, such as geometric patterns and other ornate motifs. When they wore their traditional animal skins, such as moccasins, they often adorned them with intricate designs to make them more attractive. Tribes of these regions also created intricate ceremonial regalia. Among the most prominent of these were headdresses and costumes made with red woodpecker scalps and white deer skin.

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For Indians of the Southwest, basketry, pottery, and weaving were not only functional objects but were also forms of artistic expression. The designs incorporated in these objects often reflected the spiritual and symbolic representations of their daily lives and personal experiences. Basketry, pottery, and weaving were highly valued and often used in ceremonial and social contexts. They were also used in trade and as a means of transport.



The seminomadic, semi-arid plains, lived with eight, five and seven carrying some such in the Pacific, provided the Plains Indians with highly nutritious diets. They also gathered plants, and roots and hunted deer and, on occasion, buffalo, but they subsisted almost entirely on fish.

The Woodland Indians were predominantly dependent on migratory waterfowl but they also hunted reindeer, elk, deer, bison, and even buffalo. They often used their dogs when they were hunting. They would carry their equipment and other parts of the life.

Because so much of their activity centered on hunting fish, the Plains Indians had highly nutritious diets. They also gathered plants, and roots and hunted deer and, on occasion, buffalo, but they subsisted almost entirely on fish.

Many of the Plains tribes were heavily influenced in the way they dressed by their neighbors the Plains Indians. They had adopted the moccasins and animal skins that were often worn.

The Plains Indians tended to live sedentary lives and did not move around much. This was evident from the way they constructed their houses. On the other hand, the Woodland Indians tended to move around much more frequently. This was accomplished by foot, however, since the horse was not introduced until after the Spanish brought them, the natives traveled on foot and bore their cargo on their backs, having no pack animals. Dogs were their sole domesticated animals.

The Plains and Woodland Indians were artists. Animals were the best that all living creatures could be and for they were revered with the same respect and admiration as the human beings. They were also highly valued and often used in ceremonial and social contexts. They were also used in trade and as a means of transport.

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Key Fundamental Needs of Native American Indians