

Featured Native American Cultures

We currently have online language materials for more than 150 Indian nations of North America, and are adding more information on the native languages of Central and South America as well. In addition to this language information, we have carefully collected and organized links to many different aspects of native life and culture, with an emphasis on American Indians as a living people with a present tense. American Indian history is interesting and important, but Indians are still here today, too, and we have tried to feature modern writers as well as traditional legends, contemporary art as well as museum pieces, and the issues and struggles of today as well as the tragedies of yesterday. Suggestions for new links are always welcome.

Native peoples showcased on our site so far include:

● [Abenaki Indians](#): The Abenaki Indian people have been native New Englanders for millennia but are still

questing for recognition from their neighbors

● [Achumawi Culture](#): Native people of Northern California, the Achumawi are known for their fine grass basketry

● [Alabama Indian Culture](#): The state of Alabama was named for these Indians, but few of them live there today-- like other native nations of the Southeast, the Alabamas were moved to Oklahoma

● [Aleut Indians](#): The Aleut people are coastal Native Alaskans known for their seamanship and marine hunting skill

● [Algonquian Peoples](#): The native cultures and languages of the many Algonquian Indian nations

● [Algonquin Indians](#): Only one of many Native American nations called "Algonquian" by anthropologists, the Algonquins live in the Ontario/Quebec area of Canada

● [Alsea Indians](#): One of many small Native American groups of Oregon who merged onto the Siletz Reservation

● [Apache Culture](#): The Apache Nation is best known for their military resistance against the Americans, but there is much more to Apache Indian culture than fighting

● [Arapaho Indian Culture](#): Plains Indians originally, the Arapaho Indian nation was split in half by American conquest

● [Arawak Indian Culture](#): Native people of the Caribbean and the South American coast, the Arawaks were the Indian tribe first encountered by Columbus' expedition.

● [Arikara Indian Culture](#): Members of the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Indian nation, the Arikaras are traditionally

traders and corn farmers.

● [Assiniboine/Nakota](#): Close relatives of the Sioux, the Assiniboines are native people of Montana and western Canada

● [Atakapa Indians](#): This native culture of Louisiana is best-known for its contributions to zydeco music

● [Atsugewi Culture](#): Native people of Northern California, the Atsugewi are known for their fine grass basketry

● [Attikamekw Indian Culture](#): This little-known Native Canadian nation has preserved their culture fiercely

● [Aymara Culture](#): The Aymara Indians are Andean native people similar to, but distinct from, the Incans and their descendants

● [Bannock Indians](#): An offshoot of the Paiute tribe, the Bannocks have since merged with their allies the Shoshones

● [Beaver Indians](#): Calling themselves the Dane-Zaa, these northern Athabaskans are distant relatives of the Navajo

● [Bella Coola Indians](#): Also known as the Nuxalk, this Northwest Coast Indian tribe made their living by fishing.

● [Beothuks \(Red Indians\)](#): One of the few truly extinct Native American cultures, the Beothuk were the original inhabitants of Newfoundland

● [Biloxi Indians](#): This southern Siouan tribe was known for their sun worship

● [Blackfoot People](#): Four tribes make up this powerful nation: the Blackfeet in Montana and the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai in Alberta

● [Caddo Indians](#): Native people of the Southern Plains, the Caddo Nation barely survived a terrible smallpox epidemic in the 16th century

● [Carrier](#) and [Babine-Wetsuwiten](#) culture: These subarctic First Nations of Canada are distant relatives of the Navajo

● [Catawba Indians](#): One of the few American Indian nations to remain in the Southeast, many Catawba people still live in South Carolina today

● [Cayuga Indians](#): One of the Indian cultures of the Iroquois Confederacy, native people of New York State

● [Cherokee Indians](#): No, your great-grandmother was NOT a Cherokee princess; come learn about us anyway

● [Cheyenne Indians](#): Plains Indians originally, the Cheyenne Indian nation was split in half by American conquest

● [Chickasaw Indians](#): Like the other southeastern Indian nations known as the "Five Civilized Tribes," the Chickasaw people were forced to move to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears

● [Chinook Indians](#): Once one of the most powerful Native American nations of the west coast, the Chinook

Indian culture has influenced many other native peoples

● [Choctaw Indians](#): Like the other southeastern Indian nations known as the "Five Civilized Tribes," the Choctaw people were forced to move to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears

● [Chumash Indians](#): This Native American culture of California is known for their ceremonial rock paintings

● [Coeur d'Alene Indians](#): The Coeur d'Alene are a Native American nation of the Plateau region who traditionally lived as fishermen

● [Comanche Indians](#): Originally an offshoot of the Shoshone Nation, the Comanches ruled much of the Southern Plains

● [Coquille Tribe](#): One of several small native cultures of Oregon, pushed together by colonial pressures

● [Coushatta Indians](#): Most Coushattas were moved to Oklahoma like other native nations of the Southeast, but some Coushatta people still live in a traditional community in Louisiana

● [Cree](#): The most widespread Native American nation today, spanning Canada from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean

● [Crow Indians](#): Distant relatives and frequent adversaries of the Sioux, the Crow Nation still lives in the Northern Plains today

● [Dakota/Lakota People](#): The Sioux peoples are the most famous and least-understood American Indian culture in the United States today

● [Eel River Tribes](#): These small Athabaskan tribes of California were nearly destroyed by the Gold Rush

● [Fox and Sac Indians](#): The Sac took in Fox survivors of a French massacre in the 1700's and the two native nations have been together ever since

● [Gros Ventre Indians](#): Kinfolk of the Arapaho Nation, the Gros Ventre people call themselves A'aninin

● [Gwich'in Indians](#): An Athabaskan Indian culture of Alaska, the Gwichins relied on the caribou herds

● [Haida Indians](#): Native people of Alaska, the Haidas are known for their impressive totem poles.

● [Havasupai](#), [Hualapai](#), and [Yavapai Indians](#): Three closely related Indian nations of the Grand Canyon area

● [Hidatsa Indians](#): Plains Indians, the Hidatsa Indian culture depended on both buffalo hunting and the corn harvest

● [Illinois Indians \(Illini\)](#): The Illini have not survived as a nation, but their descendants live in Oklahoma to this day

- [Innu Indian Culture](#): Montagnais and Naskapi Innu people speak differing languages but share history and traditions
- [Inuit](#): The Inuit are not Native American people, but they are neighbors and their language is similarly endangered
- [Ioway Indians](#): Together with their kinfolk the Otoe and Missouri, the Ioway Indian nation farmed the land and hunted the buffalo herds
- [Iroquois Confederacy](#): The Native American nations of the Haudenosaunee League
- [Kansa Indians](#): Plains Indians, the Kansa native culture depended on both buffalo hunting and the corn harvest
- [Kickapoo People](#): The Kickapoo fled from Illinois to Texas and Mexico to protect their native culture
- [Kiowa Indians](#): Plains Indians, the Kiowa Indian culture depended on both buffalo hunting and the corn harvest
- [Kwakiutl Indians](#): Native people of the Canadian West Coast, the Kwakiutls are known for their impressive totem poles.
- [Leni Lenape](#): The Lenape (or Delaware) are considered by other Indian nations the eldest of the eastern tribes
- [Lumbee People](#): Descendants of the native cultures that took in the Roanoake settlers at Croatan
- [Maidu Indians](#): Native people of California, the Maidu are well-known for their basketry art.
- [Makah Indians](#): The Makah Indian tribe made their living as whalers and fishermen.
- [Maliseet Indians](#): One of the native peoples of the Wabanaki Confederacy, whose home is the Canadian Maritimes
- [Mandan Indians](#): Plains Indians, the Mandan culture depended on both buffalo hunting and the corn harvest
- [Menominee Indian Culture](#): Named for the wild rice they cultivated, the Menominees are original natives of Wisconsin
- [Metis Indians](#): Descendants of French traders and American Indians, the Metis people have a unique identity and creole language
- [Miami Indians](#): The Miami people hail from Indiana, not Florida (Miami University is named in their honor)
- [Miccosukee Indians](#): This small tribe of northern Florida is best-known for its role in forming the powerful Seminole Nation
- [Mi'kmaq People](#): One of the native nations of the Wabanaki Confederation, whose home is the Canadian Maritimes

- [Missouria Indians](#): Together with their kinfolk the Iowa and Otoe, the Missouria Indian nation farmed the land and hunted the buffalo herds
- [Miwok Indians](#): Native people of California, the Miwoks are well-known for their basketry art.
- [Mohawk Indians](#): One of the Indian nations of the Iroquois League, native people of New York State
- [Mohegan Nations](#): The term "Mohegan" actually refers to several originally distinct American Indian nations, including the Pequots, Montauks, Narragansetts, Niantics, Nipmucs, and Shinnecocks
- [Mohican People](#): The Mohicans are not, contrary to popular belief, extinct, but they were forcibly evicted from New York by the US government
- [Montauk Indian Tribe](#): One of the Algonquian Indian tribes of New England later grouped together as Mohegan
- [Munsee Nation](#): Kinfolk of the Lenape, the Munsee were driven to Wisconsin and Ontario by colonial expansion
- [Muskogee Creek Indians](#): Like the other southeastern Indian cultures known as the "Five Civilized Tribes," the Creek people were forced to move to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears
- [Nanticoke Indians](#): The Nanticoke people were known for sheltering escaped slaves, some of whom married into the tribe
- [Narragansett Indians](#): One of many American Indian nations called 'Mohegan,' the Narragansett had a distinct language and identity
- [Natchez Indians](#): Native people of Louisiana, the Natchez were sun-worshippers
- [Navajo Indians](#): The largest Native American group in the United States, the Navajos are renowned for their weaving arts
- [Nez Perce](#): Best known for their eloquent leader Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce were originally fisherman who shifted to a buffalo culture after horses were introduced to North America
- [Niantic Indian Tribe](#): One of the Algonquian Indian tribes of New England later grouped together as Mohegan
- [Nipmuc Indian Tribe](#): One of the Algonquian Indian tribes of New England later grouped together as Mohegan
- [Nisga'a](#) and [Gitksan Indians](#): Two closely related Native American nations of the Northwest Coast
- [Nooksack Indians](#): This Indian culture of the Washington coast was known for their fishing skill.
- [Nootka Indians](#): Also known as the Nuu-chah-nulth, this Northwest Coast Indian tribe made their living by fishing.
- [Ohlone Indians](#): Also known as the Costanoans, these are the native

people of the San Francisco Bay area.

● [Ojibwe Indians](#): Known variously as the Ojibway, Chippewa, and Anishinaabe, this is one of the largest and most powerful Native American nations

● [Omaha Indians](#): The Omaha tribe spent part of the year in settled villages, and part of the year following the buffalo herds across the Great Plains

● [Oneida Indians](#): One of the Indian nations of the Iroquois League, native people of New York State

● [Onondaga Indians](#): One of the Indian nations of the Iroquois League, native people of New York State

● [Osage Indians](#): Plains Indians, the Osage culture depended on both buffalo hunting and the corn harvest

● [Otoe Indians](#): Together with their kinfolk the Ioway and Missouria, the Otoe Indian nation farmed the land and hunted the buffalo herds

● [Ottawa Indians](#): The Native American culture who gave their name to Canada's capital city

● [Passamaquoddy Indians](#): One of the native peoples of the Wabanaki Confederacy, original inhabitants of Maine

● [Paiute Indians](#): Wide-ranging people, the Paiutes had a great influence on the Native American cultures of the Great Basin and Plateau.

● [Pawnee Indians](#): Fierce warriors who were agriculturally advanced, the Pawnee Nation quickly became allies of the American settlers

● [Penobscot Indians](#): One of the native peoples of the Wabanaki Confederacy, original inhabitants of Maine

● [Pequot Indian Tribe](#): One of the Algonquian Indian tribes of New England later grouped together as Mohegan

● [Pima](#) and [Papago Indians](#): Two closely related Native American cultures of Arizona, known as *O'odham* in their own language

● [Pocumtuck](#): A subtribe of the Mohican Indian Nation, the Pocumtucks had their own independent leadership

● [Pomo Indians](#): Native people of California, the Pomos are well-known for their basketry art.

● [Ponca Indians](#): The Ponca Nation is best-known for its successful lawsuit establishing the human rights of native people

● [Potawatomi People](#): Allies of the Ojibwe and Ottawa nations, some Potawatomi were deported to Oklahoma

and others still live in the Great Lakes Region

● [Powhatan Indians](#): Best-known as Pocahontas' tribe, the Powhatan Empire was historically more important for its military dominance

● [Puget Sound Salish Indians](#): There were originally dozens of Coast Salish tribes in the Puget Sound area; some of the survivors include the [Skagit](#), [Swinomish](#), [Snohomish/Tulalip](#), [Sauk-Suiattle](#), [Duwamish](#), [Muckleshoot](#), [Nisqually](#), [Puyallup](#), [Sahewamish](#), [Skykomish](#), [Snoqualmie](#), [Suquamish](#), [Stillaguamish](#), and [Squaxin](#) tribes

● [Quapaw Indians](#): Plains Indian people, the Quapaw Nation were also known as the Akansea --

and gave that name to the state of Arkansas

● [Quechan Indians](#): Also known as the Yuma, one of several Native American cultures of the Sonoran desert.

● [Quileute Indians](#): The Quileute Indian tribe made their living as whalers and fishermen.

● [Quinault Indians](#): This Indian culture of the Washington coast was known for their fishing skill.

● [Salinan Indians](#): Original people of the Monterey area, the Salinans were devastated by the Gold Rush and its aftermath

● [Flathead](#), [Kalispel](#), and [Spokane](#) tribes: The Salish people of the northwestern Plateau

● [Sekani Indians](#): An Athabaskan Indian culture of subarctic Canada, known for their survival in a harsh climate

● [Seminole Indians](#): Originally an alliance of Creek, Miccosukee and other southeastern Indian tribes, the Seminole Nation became known for taking in escaped African-American slaves

● [Seneca Indians](#): One of the Indian nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, native people of New York State

● [Seri Indians](#): Native people of the Sonoran desert in Mexico, who hold the sea turtle sacred

● [Shasta Indians](#): A Native American group of northern California and Oregon, who made their living as fishermen

● [Shawnee Indians](#): The nomadic Shawnee people made settlements from New York State to Georgia, but were forcibly reunited when the Americans sent them to an Oklahoma reservation

● [Shinnecock Indian Tribe](#): One of the Algonquian Indian tribes of New England later grouped together as Mohegan

● [Shoshone Indians](#): The Shoshone people are most famous for their role in the Lewis and Clark expedition (Sacagawea was a Shoshone chief's sister)

● [Shuswap Indians](#): A Northwest Coast Indian culture of British Columbia, who made their living as fishermen

- [Slavey Indians](#): An Athabaskan Indian culture of subarctic Canada, known for their survival in a harsh climate
- [Squamish Indians](#): A Salishan Indian group of the Pacific Northwest, known as salmon fishermen
- [Stoney Indians](#): Relatives of the Sioux, the Stoneys are native people of western Canada
- [Straits Salish Indians](#): There were originally many small Salishan Indian nations in the Northern Straits area of Washington and British Columbia; some of the survivors include the [Saanich](#), [Samish](#), [Songish](#), [Lummi](#), [Sooke](#), and [Semiahmoo](#) tribes
- [Tanana Indians](#): An Athabaskan Indian culture of Alaska, the Tananas relied on the caribou herds
- [Tarahumara Indians](#): Native people of northern Mexico, known for their distance runners and gentle ways
- [Thompson Indians](#): An Athabaskan Indian nation of subarctic Canada, known for their survival in a harsh climate
- [Tillamook Tribe](#): One of several small Native American cultures of Oregon, pushed together by colonial pressures
- [Timucua Tribe](#): Original people of Florida, one of only a few truly extinct American Indian nations
- [Tlingit Indians](#): Native people of Alaska, the Tlingits are known for their impressive totem poles.
- [Tolowa Tribe](#): One of several small native cultures of Oregon, pushed together by colonial pressures
- [Tonkawa Indians](#): Native people of Texas, the Tonkawa Nation claimed descent from a mythical wolf
- [Tsimshian Culture](#): A native nation of the Northwest Coast, known for their totem poles and seafaring canoes
- [Tsuu T'ina Indians](#): An Athabaskan Indian nation of subarctic Canada, known for their survival in a harsh climate
- [Tututni Tribe](#): One of several small native cultures of Oregon, pushed together by colonial pressures
- [Ute](#): People of the Great Basin, the Ute Nation suffered through the Rocky Mountain gold rush
- [Wabanaki Indians](#): The Wabanaki Confederacy was a powerful alliance of east-coast Indian peoples
- [Wampanoag](#): The native people who shared in the first Thanksgiving feast, the Wampanoag met a sad fate at the hands of the English
- [Wappo Tribe](#): One of several small California Indian cultures devastated by the Gold Rush
- [Wappinger](#): A subtribe of the Mohican Indian Nation, the Wappingers had their own independent leadership
- [Washoe Tribe](#): One of several small California Native cultures

devastated by the Gold Rush

[Wichita Indians](#): Native people of the Southern Plains, the Wichita Indian Nation depended on both farming and the buffalo hunt to survive

[Wintu Tribe](#): Native people of California, the Wintu are well-known for their basketry art.

[Wiyot Nation](#): This California Indian culture was nearly wiped out by a genocidal miner during the Gold Rush era

[Yokuts Tribe](#): Originally this American Indian nation consisted of several distinct tribes, but distinctions between them were eroded following multiple epidemics and attacks by Americans

[Yuchi Tribe](#): This Southeastern Indian nation lives together with the Creek tribe in Oklahoma today

[Yupik Culture](#): Native people of Alaska whose range extends to the islands of Siberia

[Yurok Nation](#): Kinfolk of the Wiyot, these two native peoples have nearly merged after ethnic violence against them in the 1800's

[Zapotec People](#): A native culture of Mexico, best known for their colorful weavings.

[Central and South American Indian Nations](#): We also have some pages on Native American cultures of Central and South America. Click here to check them out

Selected Links about Native American Culture

Our site is designed to present information about American Indian peoples and their languages contextually-- language by language and nation by nation. These are diverse societies deserving of individual attention, and it can be very difficult to make accurate generalizations about them as a group. However, our site is also unfinished and may be of limited use to people seeking information on a tribe we have not yet covered. For this reason, we are providing some links to the main pages of sites with information about many different Native American peoples. Hopefully if you are looking for information on an Indian culture we have not finished work on yet, these sites can provide a starting point for your search.

[First Nations Histories](#): Historical overviews of 48 different North American Indian nations

[Native Cultures of North America](#): Articles on ninety different US and Canadian Indian peoples

- [Native American Cultures](#): Clickable US map with information about American Indian people in each region
- [Native American History and Culture](#) : Online exhibit on native culture and history from the National Museum of the American Indian
- [Native American Technology](#): Traditional American Indian arts, crafts, weaponry, and tools
- [Native Web](#): News, articles, and links for and about American Indian people
- [Native American Chiefs and Leaders](#): Biographies of important Native American people throughout history
- [Native American Culture](#): Directory of Native American cultural resources
- [Native American Nations](#): Links about American Indian culture in different tribes
- [Native American Cultures](#): Links about American Indian culture in different tribes
- [Native American Culture](#): Links about American Indian culture in different tribes
- [American Indian Articles](#): Collection of simple essays for kids on Native American culture
- [Native American Groups](#): Links about Native American Indian cultures
- [Indigenous Native Americans](#) : Indexed resources on Native American culture and society
- [Native American Language Resources](#): More links specifically about Amerindian languages