Theme: The Phenomenon of the American Culture

I.Vocabulary work

1.Check these words

settle, imprint, chipmunk, moose, turquoise, pottery, beadwork, treasured , fertilizer, staples, to be indebted, sophisticated

2.Vocabulary practice

Match the words with their definitions

1. Imprint	a. a ground squirrel of western America and Asia;
2. chipmunk	b.a type of large deer with large, flat antler s
3. moose	c. the art of making containers, sculptures and other objects of clay
4. turquoise	d. take great care of something because you love it or consider it very valuable
5. pottery	e. a chemical or natural substance added to soil or land to increase its fertility
6. beadwork	f. a short, thin piece of wire used to fasten sheets of paper together
7. treasure	g. owing gratitude for a service or favour
8. fertilizer	h. the art or craft of attaching beads to one another by stringing them onto a thread or thin wire
9. staples	i.to make an impression; have an effect.
10.to be indebted	k having a good understanding of the way people behave and/or a good knowledge of culture and fashion
11.sophisticated	l. a mineral that is blue, bluish-green or greenish-gray

II Reading Comprehension

1.Read the text

When the first Europeans began to settle the North American continent, they encountered a completely new culture: the native American tribes of North America. Native Americans, who had a highly developed culture in many respects, must have been as curious about the strange European manners and customs as were the Europeans about Native Americans. As always happens when two cultures come into contact, there was a cultural exchange. Native Americans adopted some of the Europeans' ways, and the Europeans adopted some of their ways. As a result, Native Americans have made many valuable contributions to American culture, particularly in the areas of language, art, food, and government.

First of all, native Americans left a permanent imprint on the English language. The early settlers borrowed words from several different Native American languages to name the new places and new objects that they had found in their new land. All across the country, one can find cities, towns, rivers, and states with Native American names. For example, the states of Delaware, Lowa, Illinois, and Alabama are named after Native American tribes, as are the cities of Chicago, Miami, and Spokane. In addition to place names, English has adopted many everyday words from various Native American languages. The words chipmunk, moose, raccoon, skunk, moccasin, and potato are just a few examples.

Although the vocabulary of English is the areas that shows the most Native American influence, it is not the only area of American culture that was changed by contact with Native Americans. Art is another area showing the mark of Native American contact. Wool rugs woven by women of the Navajo tribe in Arizona and New Mexico are highly valued works of art in the United States. Also, Native American jewelry made from silver and turquoise is very popular and very expensive. Especially in the western and southwestern regions of the United States, native crafts such pottery, handcrafted leather products, and beadwork can be found in many homes. Indeed, native art and handicrafts have become a treasured part of American culture.

In addition to language and art, agriculture is another area in which Native American had a great and lasting influence. Being skilled farmers, the Native Americans of North America taught the newcomers many things about farming techniques and crops. Every American school child has heard the story of how Native American taught the first settlers to place a dead fish in a planting hole to provide fertilizer for the growing plant. Furthermore, they taught the settlers irrigation methods and crop rotation. In addition, many of the foods we eat today were introduced to the Europeans by Native Americans. For example, potatoes, corn, chocolate, and peanuts were unknown in Europe. Now they are staples in the American diet.

Finally, it may surprise some people to learn that Americans are also indebted to one tribe for our form of government. The Iroquois, who were an extremely large tribe with many branches and sub-branches (called "nations"), had developed a highly sophisticated system of government to keep the branches of the tribe from fighting one another. Five of the nations had joined together in a confederation called "The League of the Iroquois." Under the League, each nation was autonomous in running its own internal affairs, but the nations

acted as a unit when dealing with outsiders. The League kept the Iroquois from fighting among themselves and was also valuable in diplomatic relations with other tribes. When the thirteen American colonies were considering what kind of government to establish after they won their independence form Britain, someone suggested that they use a system similar to the League of the Iroquois. Under this system, each colony or future state would be autonomous in managing its own affairs but would joining forces with the other states to deal with matters that concerned them all. This is exactly what happened. As a result, the present form of government of the United States can be traced directly back to a Native American model.

In conclusion, we can easily see the Native American influence on the language, art forms, eating habits, and the government. Modern Americans are truly indebted to Native Americans for their contributions to their culture. Hopefully, the cultural exchange will one day prove to be equally positive for them.

2. Can You Tell which Sentences are True and which are False?

Statements:

1. Native Americans were not curious about European manners and customs.
2. Native Americans did not adopt any of the Europeans' ways.
3. Native Americans have made valuable contributions to American culture in the areas of language, art, food, and government.
4. English has borrowed words from Native American languages for place names and everyday words.
5. The states of Delaware, Lowa, Illinois, and Alabama are named after Native American tribes.
6. Native American jewelry made from silver and turquoise is not popular or expensive.
7. Native American crafts such as pottery, handcrafted leather products, and beadwork are not found in many homes in the western and southwestern regions of the United States.
8. Native Americans did not teach the first settlers about farming techniques and crops.
9. Potatoes, corn, chocolate, and peanuts were already known in Europe before being introduced by Native Americans.
10. The Iroquois had a highly sophisticated system of government called "The League of the Iroquois."
11. The League of the Iroquois was not valuable in diplomatic relations with other tribes.
12. The present form of government of the United States cannot be traced back to a Native American model.