

Theme : A Glimpse of the Native Americans History

Read the text and do the tasks

A Glimpse of the Native Americans History

More than 14,000 years ago, peoples arrived to what we now call the Americas. Over thousands of years, diverse American Indians built empires on this land, constructing sophisticated cities, and developing elaborate trade networks and complex social systems.

Native Americans built large village complexes, created elaborately designed ceramics, and traded in networks that spanned thousands of miles. They lived in settlements of several hundred people. They lived in a matriarchal society, meaning they traced their descent and inherited leadership positions through the female line. They built earthen mounds in the center of their villages for their religious ceremonies and burials of social elites. They farmed corn and other crops, and hunted deer, rabbits, and bison.

Native Americans developed a complex political system made up of alliances between different bands and tribes, and reached a peak population. They maintained vast trading networks, exporting salt, pottery, and wood for making bows, and importing seashells, copper, and flint.

But in the 16th Century, when Europeans arrived these longstanding American Indian civilizations were disrupted. Control over resources, including food and land, was taken from them, displacing and devastating many powerful American Indian tribes and destroying many others.

When French and Spanish merchants arrived the Indians began trading with them as well. This contact brought new diseases that had a devastating impact. Between 1646 and 1816, the Native Americans population dropped by 95%. In 1859, the United States government forced the locals to relocate to a reservation in present-day Oklahoma, removing them from the homeland they had occupied for more than 1,000 years.

Today American Indians from diverse tribal nations continue to live and work in the USA today. Regardless of their tribal affiliations, many keep their ancestors' memories, traditions, cultures, and languages alive.

Task 1. Complete the sentences

1. American Indians appeared in North America _____ and created quite _____ civilizations.
2. Europeans _____ Indians' civilizations and _____ many American Indians tribes.
3. A matriarchal society means that the _____ is traced and leadership positions are _____ through the _____.
4. Native Americans built _____ for their religious ceremonies and burials of social elites.
5. The arrival of the Europeans had a _____ influence on the number of the Indians' population.

Task 2 Pick the Right Answer!

1. When did peoples arrive in the Americas?

- A Over 14,000 years ago.
- B In the 16th Century.
- C In 1859.
- D None of the above.

2 What kind of society did Native Americans live in?

- A Patriarchal.
- B Matriarchal.
- C Democratic.
- D Monarchic.

3 What did Native Americans trade?

- A Salt, pottery, and wood.
- B Seashells, copper, and flint.
- C Bows and arrows.
- D All of the above.

4 What happened to the Native American population between 1646 and 1816?

- A It dropped by 50%.
- B It dropped by 75%.
- C It dropped by 95%.
- D It remained the same.

5 What was the impact of European arrival on Native American civilizations?

- A It had no impact.
- B It disrupted them.
- C It improved them.
- D It made them stronger.

6 Where were Native Americans forced to relocate in 1859?

- A To a reservation in present-day Oklahoma.
- B To a reservation in present-day New York.
- C To a reservation in present-day California.
- D None of the above.

7 Do American Indians from diverse tribal nations continue to live and work in the USA today?

- A Yes.
- B No.
- C Only in certain states.
- D Only in certain cities.

Homework: Learn new words