

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Study Guide - Introduction to American Indians**

American Indians are also called

- Native Americans
- First Americans

Art was very important to the First Americans. They made

- beautiful pottery
- jewelry and beadwork
- weaving

American Indians shared these three things

- legends and stories
- respect for nature
- respect for the land

### **Vocabulary**

<b>adapt</b>	to find new ways, tools, or skills, to make life easier or better
<b>regions</b>	a group of places that have something in common
<b>reservations</b>	land that American Indians were forced to move to after being pushed away from their homes
<b>multi-storied</b>	buildings that are two or more stories tall
<b>terraced</b>	land that has been cut and formed into layers
<b>dwelling</b>	your home or the place that you live
<b>adobe</b>	sun-dried bricks made of clay and straw
<b>environment</b>	all the things around you
<b>climate</b>	the kind of weather an area has over a long period of time
<b>irrigate</b>	to bring water for crops from somewhere else

Did you know that by the time Christopher Columbus came to America, there were already millions of people here? There were over 300 nations that spoke more than 140 different languages. Columbus named these people "Indians" because he thought he had landed in the Indies – a group of islands in Asia. American Indians are sometimes called "First Americans" or "Native Americans" because they were living here for more than 20,000 years before people from Europe started to arrive.

The American Indians suffered when the Europeans (people from the continent of Europe) came. For one thing, the Europeans did not know it, but they carried smallpox germs. Smallpox is a deadly disease, and many American Indians got sick. Three out of every four died! Many others were forced to leave their homes and were pushed off their lands by the Europeans.

You will be learning about three groups of American Indians. They each had to adapt to the unique places where they lived, but they all helped shape America.

American Indians we will be learning about

- Powhatan (People of the Woods)
- Lakota Sioux (People of the Plains)
- Pueblo (People of the Desert)