Included in this resource:

- 11 Passages
- Questions for each passage
- Suggested answer keys for each passage
- Teacher instructions

Native American Regions: Southeast

The Southeast culture region extends from the eastern edge of Texas to the Atlantic Ocean and from the state of Kentucky down to the Gulf of Mexico. Iroquoian, Caddoan, Siouan, and Muskogean languages were spoken in this region, along with numerous language isolates. Most known from this region are the Muskogean speaking Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, and Seminole, who were once referred to at the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Southeast is temperate and conducive to agriculture; villages primarily grew corn along with beans, sunflower, squash, and tobacco. Succotash, a stew of corn and beans, was a common meal.

Southeastern societies were highly stratified both politically and religiously, with chiefs and priests having special roles. Religion was based on animism: plants, animals, and inanimate objects were believed to have souls. Hunting was sacred and included special rituals to honor the slain animal. The Green Corn ceremony was an esteemed annual ritual in which a sacred fire was lit and old grudges were either forgiven or forgotten.

After European contact in the 1500s, many Southeast peoples were enslaved or killed. In the 1800s, struggling American settlers resented indigenous prosperity and wanted their land. Southeast tribes were relocated in 1830 with the Indian Removal Act, even after tribes had appealed to the Supreme Court. Around 100,000 people were forced from their homes, sometimes at gunpoint, and 15,000 died during the forced march to Oklahoma. This would become known as the Trail of Tears.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

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ived in this region. What is their nickname?

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affect the people in this area?

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Native American Regions: Southeast

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

is the Southeast region?

east culture region extends from the eastern edge of Texas to the Atlantic Ocean and from the state of down to the Gulf of Mexico.

most well known tribes that lived in this region. What is their nickname?

wn from this region are the Muskogean speaking Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw, and Seminole, who e referred to at the Five Civilized Tribes.

/pes of food did the people eat?

rimarily grew corn along with beans, sunflower, squash, and tobacco. Succotash, a stew of corn and beans, was n meal.

the Green Corn Ceremony?

Corn ceremony was an esteemed annual ritual in which a sacred fire was lit and old grudges were either r forgotten.

d struggling American settlers affect the people in this area?

Os, struggling American settlers resented indigenous prosperity and wanted their land.

e the Trail of Tears.

0,000 people were forced from their homes, sometimes at gunpoint, and 15,000 died during the forced march ma.

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Native American Regions: Mesoamerica

Mexico and Central America make up the Mesoamerican culture area. Mayan is spoken in the southeast, Uto-Aztecan in the north, and Otomanguean in the areas between. Indigenous peoples have lived in the region since 7000 BC, and they developed roughly three-fifths of all crops now grown today, including corn, tomatoes, and squash.

Mesoamerica was one of three places in the world where writing developed independently; hieroglyphics and pictographs were both used. With stable food sources, Mesoamerican societies were able to construct vast cities and focus on education, developing sophisticated systems of astronomy and mathematics. A 260-day ceremonial calendar and a 365-day solar year calendar were used, along with a base 20, rather than a base 10, number system. Astronomers understood the cycles of the planets, and the universe was thought to be divided into the day world watched over by the sun and the night world watched over by the moon.

Shamanism was integral to religion, and sacrifice, including human sacrifice, was practiced by many Mesoamerican societies in an effort to appease the gods. People were believed to have companion spirits that could take the form of animals or natural events like shooting stars. In modern times, Mesoamerican religions have been heavily influenced by Roman Catholic missionaries, and traditional figures have been reinterpreted as saints.

Today, indigenous Mesoamericans maintain traditional customs while contributing to the global economy via coffee, vanilla, and citrus, although some tribes still live in extreme isolation.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

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to create independently?

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the universe?

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Native American Regions: Mesoamerica

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

countries make up Mesoamerica?

d Central America make up the Mesoamerican culture area.

ere the Mesoamericans able to create independently?

rica was one of three places in the world where writing developed independently; hieroglyphics and hs were both used.

id Astronomers believe about the universe?

ers understood the cycles of the planets, and the universe was thought to be divided into the day world ver by the sun and the night world watched over by the moon.

d the people practice sacrifice?

including human sacrifice, was practiced by many Mesoamerican societies in an effort to appease the gods.

eligion has influenced Mesoamerican culture?

times, Mesoamerican religions have been heavily influenced by Roman Catholic missionaries, and traditional ve been reinterpreted as saints.

rops do Mesoamericans supply to the world today ?

igenous Mesoamericans maintain traditional customs while contributing to the global economy via coffee, d citrus.

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Native American Regions: Caribbean

The Caribbean region is made up of the islands in the Caribbean Sea, such as Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba, Dominica, and many more. Native Caribbeans included the Guanahatabey in Cuba, the Island Caribs in the Lesser Antilles (the small islands), and the Taíno people in the Greater Antilles (large islands).

The Guanahatabey were hunter-gatherers that disappeared in the 1500s, perhaps due to other natives taking their territory. Island Caribs, who the Caribbean was named after, were skilled warriors that attacked other islands and ate their prisoners. The Spanish failed to conquer them, but the French and English overpowered them, killing many by bringing diseases they had no immunity to. Around 3,000 Caribs and their descendants still live on the island of Dominica.

The Taíno people were peaceful farmers who grew cassava, sweet potato, and corn. They lived in large circular buildings called *bohios* that could house 10 families and worshipped spirits called *zemis*. The supreme *zemí* was Atabey, goddess of the moon and water. Taíno words such as *barbacoa* (barbeque) and *juracán* (hurricane) have made their way into Spanish and English. Roughly 2 million Taíno once lived in the Caribbean.

They were the first natives that Christopher Columbus met in 1492, and he described them as kind and helpful. On his second trip, however, Columbus demanded gold, cutting off the hands of any Taíno who did not bring any. Women had equal power in Taíno society, but the Spanish kidnapped and abused women, treated them as items and not as people. The Taíno fought back, but were conquered by the Spanish by the early 1500s. War and disease killed many Taíno, and they were soon considered extinct. However, many people today, especially in Puerto Rico, identify as part Taíno, and DNA studies support this.

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Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

ke up the Caribbean?

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of the Island Caribs?

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se today?

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Taíno and Christopher Columbus.

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dentify as Taíno?

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Native American Regions: Caribbean

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

re some of the islands that make up the Caribbean?

bean region is made up of the islands in the Caribbean Sea, such as Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Cuba, and many more.

ere the Guanahatabey?

ahatabey were hunter-gatherers that disappeared in the 1500s, perhaps due to other natives taking their

re some of the characteristics of the Island Caribs?

bs, who the Caribbean was named after, were skilled warriors that attacked other islands and ate their The Spanish failed to conquer them, but the French and English overpowered them, killing many by bringing hey had no immunity to.

re some Taíno words that we use today?

ds such as *barbacoa* (barbeque) and *juracán* (hurricane) have made their way into Spanish and English.

e the interaction between the Taíno and Christopher Columbus.

the first natives that Christopher Columbus met in 1492, and he described them as kind and helpful. On his p, however, Columbus demanded gold, cutting off the hands of any Taíno who did not bring any. Women had er in Taíno society, but the Spanish kidnapped and abused women, treated them as items and not as people.

hat island do many residents identify as Taíno?

o.

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REVIEW

Native American Regions: Arctic

Due to the number of Native American tribes in North America--over 1000!--, researchers have broken them into groups based on similar cultures and shared geographical regions. The least populated of these is the Arctic region, home to the Inuit and Aleut peoples. One of the coldest places on the planet, this region encompasses the portions of Canada, Greenland, and Alaska that are closest to the Arctic Circle.

Inuit and Aleut have lived here for thousands of years, braving severe, unforgiving weather in what is essentially a frozen desert, devoid of trees. These tribes share many cultural commonalities, both having traditionally lived off of seal and whale meat, using seal skins for clothing, constructing dome-shaped homes out of timber or ice, and using dog-sleds for transportation.

They also used long, open boats for fishing called *qajaqs* in Inuit and *baidarkas* in Aleut. Both the Aleut and the Inuit still speak similar dialects that came from the Eskimo-Aleut language family.

Inuit bands to the north tended to use ice blocks in house construction more often than timber, and they were also more nomadic than their Aleut neighbors to the south. Many Inuit followed polar bears, caribou, and seal across the tundra for the hunt and lived in semi-permanent homes. The Aleut, on the other hand, lived in coastal fishing villages.

Despite outsider attempts to destroy their culture, Aleut and Inuit tribes still live in these areas today, and many still keep traditional practices alive, such as seal-hunting and living off of the land.

Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

region?

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Inuit and the Aleut.

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Aleut live?

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6. How do the Aleut and Inuit keep their traditions alive today?

_____

_____

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Native American Regions: Arctic

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

the Arctic the least populated region?

f the coldest places on the planet.

erritories does the Artic encompass?

n encompasses the portions of Canada, Greenland, and Alaska that are closest to the Arctic Circle.

e the similarities between the Inuit and the Aleut.

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lothing, constructing dome-shaped homes out of timber or ice, and using dog-sleds for transportation. They

long, open boats for fishing called *qajaqs* in Inuit and *baidarkas* in Aleut. Both the Aleut and the Inuit still speak

alects that came from the Eskimo-Aleut language family.

d the Inuit differ from the Aleut?

ls to the north tended to use ice blocks in house construction more often than timber, and they were also more

han their Aleut neighbors to the south. Many Inuit followed polar bears, caribou, and seal across the tundra for

nd lived in semi-permanent homes.

type of communities did the Aleut live?

lived in coastal fishing villages.

the Aleut and Inuit keep their traditions alive today?

Inuit tribes still live in these areas today, and many still keep traditional practices alive, such as seal-hunting

off of the land.

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Native American Regions: Subarctic

Swampy boreal forests and the sprawling tundra of inland Alaska and Canada make up the Subarctic region. Just as in the Arctic, life for Native peoples was difficult here due to harsh weather and terrain, and the area was sparsely populated. A traditional diet consisted of caribou, bison, beaver, fish, berries, roots, and sap, but food was often hard to come by. Starvation was always a looming possibility.

Subarctic tribes fall into two language categories. The Deg Xinag, Gwich'in, and Tsattine tribes speak Athabaskan and occupied the west. The Ojibwa, Naskapi, and Cree speak Algonquian and occupied the east. Most tribes in the Subarctic did not live in towns or villages, instead roaming around to follow herds of caribou. They generally traveled in small family groups, rather than large tribes.

To support this nomadic hunting lifestyle, traveling bands lived in small tents that were easy to carry. Once night fell, making it too cold for hunting, people would dig out an underground shelter to keep warm. Some tribes, like the Deg Xinag, built villages close to good hunting grounds. Snowshoes, canoes, and toboggans were often used to get around in the taiga or tundra.

After European fur traders made contact in the 1600s, Subarctic Native Americans changed their entire way of life, focusing instead on getting animal pelts for trade. Over hundreds of years, this eventually led to the displacement of many Native American communities as the Canadian and American governments tried to force assimilation and discourage traditional cultural practices. Despite these obstacles, many Subarctic tribes have held onto their cultures and ways of life.

Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

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diet consist of?

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d the tundra?

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they made contact with Europeans?

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Native American Regions: Subarctic

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

as life harsh in the Subarctic region?

the Arctic, life for Native peoples was difficult here due to harsh weather and terrain, and the area was sparsely

d.

id the people of the Subarctic diet consist of?

nal diet consisted of caribou, bison, beaver, fish, berries, roots, and sap, but food was often hard to come by.

d the Subarctic tribes not live in towns?

es in the Subarctic did not live in towns or villages, instead roaming around to follow herds of caribou. They

traveled in small family groups, rather than large tribes.

d they support their hunting lifestyle?

t this nomadic hunting lifestyle, traveling bands lived in small tents that were easy to carry. Once night fell,

too cold for hunting, people would dig out an underground shelter to keep warm.

ools did they use to get around the tundra?

s, canoes, and toboggans were often used to get around in the taiga or tundra.

d their way of life change once they made contact with Europeans?

opean fur traders made contact in the 1600s, Subarctic Native Americans changed their entire way of life,

nstead on getting animal pelts for trade. Over hundreds of years, this eventually led to the displacement of

ive American communities

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Native American Regions: Northwest Coast

The Northwest Coast region stretches along the Pacific coast from Northern California to British Columbia. With its mild weather and natural resources, the Northwest Coast was easier to live in than other areas. Rivers and oceans supplied salmon, seal, whale, and shellfish. Tribes built villages since it was not necessary to follow animal herds for food, like the hunter-gatherers. These villages had hundreds of people.

Northwest Coast tribes had strict, complex social hierarchies. Social status was based on a person's possessions and their relationship to the village chief. Shells, canoes, blankets, and even slaves were items that could signal high status. However, families gained rank not by keeping their wealth, but by regularly giving their possessions away.

This large-scale gift-giving ceremony is known as a potlatch. Only the rich could host potlatches, and they showed off their wealth by giving away as much as possible. Guests would be challenged by the host, and whoever gave the most gifts during the potlatch would win and gain higher social standing. Although all Northwest Coast cultures had potlatches, the ceremonial practices and cultural meanings could differ drastically between each tribe.

Numerous languages and dialects were spoken by Northwest Coast Native Americans. Some groups that occupied this region include the Athabaskan-speaking Haida and Tlingit, the Penutian-speaking Coos, Chinook, and Tsimshian, the Wakashan-speaking Kwakiutl, Nootka, and Mahah, and the Salishan-speaking Coast Salish. Today, many of these languages are in decline, but some tribes are working to revive them.

Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

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this region?

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l high status?

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cupied this region?

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Native American Regions: Northwest Coast

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

reas does the Northwest region encompass?

west Coast region stretches along the Pacific coast from Northern California to British Columbia.

as the Northwest Coast easier to live in?

ild weather and natural resources, the Northwest Coast was easier to live in than other areas.

as social status determined in this region?

us was based on a person's possessions and their relationship to the village chief.

re some items that could signal high status?

oes, blankets, and even slaves were items that could signal high status.

e a potlatch.

-scale gift-giving ceremony is known as a potlatch. Only the rich could host potlatches, and they showed off

lth by giving away as much as possible. Guests would be challenged by the host, and whoever gave the most

g the potlatch would win and gain higher social standing.

re some of the groups that occupied this region?

ups that occupied this region include the Haida, Tlingit, Coos, Chinook, Tsimshian, Kwakiutl, Nootka, Mahah,

Salish.

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Native American Regions: Plateau

Plateau Native Americans lived in present-day Montana, Idaho, eastern Washington, and eastern Oregon. The Salish, Spokane, and Skitswish lived north of the Columbia River, which cut through the region. To the south were the Nez Perce, Walla Walla, Yakima, Klikitat, Modoc, and Klamath. Northern tribes spoke Salishan languages, and southern tribes spoke Penutian languages.

Tribes in the Plateau were peaceful and established permanent settlements along rivers. In the 1700s, horses were introduced, changing daily life. Horses also allowed hunters to travel farther and facilitated trade with other regions. Still, Plateau tribes did not become nomadic hunters like their neighbors in the Plains, remaining based in their villages.

For food, they hunted, gathered plants, and fished. Salmon was especially important. Bulbs from the camas lily were a popular food, but dangerous due to its resemblance to the poisonous death camas. Plateau peoples were adept at determining the edible species. Berry cakes made of Saskatoon berries were also commonly eaten.

Traditionally, Plateau peoples were proficient in weaving, utilizing tule or willow bark to create baskets, bedding, and nets.

After the Lewis and Clark Expedition in the early 1800s, American settlers flooded the area, spreading diseases that Plateau peoples had no immunity to. By the late 1800s, many had died, and those remaining were forced by the U.S. government to leave their homes.

Plateau tribes still embrace their culture today by gathering wild plants, practicing traditional beadwork, hand-making baskets and clothing, and celebrating the annual Spirit Dance.

Name: _____ Date: _____

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

ericans live?

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icient in?

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sequences for Plateau tribes?

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culture today?

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Native American Regions: Plateau

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

h states did Plateau Native Americans live?

ative Americans lived in present-day Montana, Idaho, eastern Washington, and eastern Oregon.

d horses alter Plateau Native Americans way of life?

o allowed hunters to travel farther and facilitated trade with other regions.

od did Plateau people eat?

they hunted, gathered plants, and fished. Salmon was especially important. Bulbs from the camas lily were a

od, but dangerous due to its resemblance to the poisonous death camas. Plateau peoples were adept at

ng the edible species. Berry cakes made of Saskatoon berries were also commonly eaten.

kill where Plateau people proficient in?

ally, Plateau peoples were proficient in weaving, utilizing tule or willow bark to create baskets, bedding, and

vent in the 1800s had dire consequences for Plateau tribes?

Lewis and Clark Expedition in the early 1800s, American settlers flooded the area, spreading diseases that

eoples had no immunity to. By the late 1800s, many had died, and those remaining were forced by the U.S.

nt to leave their homes.

Plateau tribes embrace their culture today?

ibes still embrace their culture today by gathering wild plants, practicing traditional beadwork, hand-making

nd clothing, and celebrating the annual Spirit Dance.

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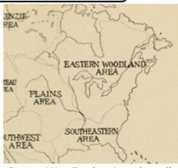
PREVIEW

Native American Regions: Eastern Woodland



The Eastern Woodland region, also called the Northeast, stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the eastern edge of the Great Plains and from southeastern Canada down to the northern edge of Tennessee and into North Carolina.

The Algonquian-speaking Chippewa, Delaware, Wampanoag, Abenaki, and Pequot and the Iroquois-speaking Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, and Onondaga lived in this region.

Agrarian villages were established along sources of water to cultivate squash, tobacco, and corn. Deer were also a vital food source. Villages were protected with walls due to frequent conflict amongst tribes, and people lived either in longhouses, meant for multiple families, or wigwams, dome-shaped homes.

Strings of beads made from shells called wampum were used for currency. Deerskin clothing was commonly worn, and most tribes painted their bodies and faces. Most tribes believed in a spiritual life force that was present in everything, including people, animals, and plants, referred to either as Manitou or Orenda. Society in the Eastern Woodlands was class-based, with the chief and nobility at the top.

Tribes along the Atlantic Coast were the first Native Americans that Europeans encountered in what would become America. At first, many tribes were welcoming, teaching settlers how to survive. Early settlers adopted Native practices of farming corn and wearing deerskin. However, as Europeans encroached on their territory, violent conflicts broke out, especially with the aggressive Iroquois tribes. By the 1800s, many tribes had been removed from their ancestral lands by the U.S. governments and forced onto reservations in Oklahoma.

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Name: ______________________ Date: __________

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

Eastern Woodland?

od sources?

rce?

s along the Atlantic Coast?

vith European settlers?

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Native American Regions: Eastern Woodland

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

reas of the U.S. comprise the Eastern Woodland?

rn Woodland region, also called the Northeast, stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the eastern edge of the ins and from southeastern Canada down to the northern edge of Tennessee and into North Carolina.

ribes lived in this region?

quian-speaking Chippewa, Delaware, Wampanoag, Abenaki, and Pequot and the Iroquois-speaking Mohawk, eneca, and Onondaga lived in this region.

vere some of the important food sources?

villages were established along sources of water to cultivate squash, tobacco, and corn. Deer were also a vital ce.

id they call the spiritual life force?

or Orenda.

vas significant about the tribes along the Atlantic Coast?

ng the Atlantic Coast were the first Native Americans that Europeans encountered in what would become

vas the final result of contact with European settlers?

eans encroached on their territory, violent conflicts broke out, especially with the aggressive Iroquois tribes. By , many tribes had been removed from their ancestral lands by the U.S. governments and forced onto ons in Oklahoma.

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Native American Regions: Great Plains

One of the largest Native American regions is the Great Plains, the expanse of land between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River that extends from Canada down to the Gulf of Mexico. Great Plains tribes such as the Arapahoe, Crow, Blackfoot, Comanche, and Cheyenne are some of the most famous, known as nomadic hunters that followed bison herds on horseback.

People roamed in small bands and lived in tipis, cone-shaped tents that could be folded up and carried. Social status was based on exploits in battle, self-sufficiency, and charitability. Plains warriors were known for their ornate feathered war bonnets, and acts of bravery included stealing horses or "counting coup", touching an enemy in battle rather than killing them.

Self-sufficiency was so highly valued that orphans were positively viewed due to their ability to survive on their own. Plains tribes believed that the world was made up of spirits, and vision quests were a ritual in which a person would go to a remote area to commune with the spirits.

As American settlers moved west, Plains tribes were pushed out of their territories, despite fiercely resisting. However, after the U.S. government decided to systematically exterminate buffalo, a primary food supply for Plains Native Americans, resistant tribes suffered mass starvation and had no choice but to move to reservations by the late 1800s. Government-built boarding schools sought to assimilate Native American children by forbidding them from practicing their cultures or speaking their native languages.

In the modern age, many Great Plains tribes have opened schools focused on cultural revitalization, instructing children in Native American languages.

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Name: ______________________ Date: __________

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

in this region.

cs of Plains warriors ?

ffalo affect Plains people?

eir culture today?

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Native American Regions: Great Plains

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

andmarks define this region?

y Mountains, the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico.

most famous tribes that lived in this region.

, Crow, Blackfoot, Comanche, and Cheyenne.

d people live in this region?

amed in small bands and lived in tipis, cone-shaped tents that could be folded up and carried. Social status was exploits in battle, self-sufficiency, and charitability.

vere the defining characteristics of Plains warriors ?

rriors were known for their ornate feathered war bonnets, and acts of bravery included stealing horses or coup", touching an enemy in battle rather than killing them.

d the extermination of the buffalo affect Plains people?

U.S. government decided to systematically exterminate buffalo, a primary food supply for Plains Native s, resistant tribes suffered mass starvation and had no choice but to move to reservations by the late 1800s.

ave Plains tribes revitalized their culture today?

dern age, many Great Plains tribes have opened schools focused on cultural revitalization, instructing children American languages.

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Native American Regions: California Intermountain

The California Intermountain region lies south of the Plateau region, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains. It includes California, Nevada, Utah, Baja California, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho. The steppe-deserts of Nevada and Utah are referred to as the Great Basin.

Prior to European arrival, California was home to roughly 300,000 people due to its hospitable climate. More than 200 languages and dialects were spoken by the over 100 tribes in the area. The Pomo, Chumash, and Shasta spoke Hokan languages, the Miwok, Yokuts, and Maidu spoke Penutian languages, the Hupa spoke Athapaskan, and the Serrano, Paiute, and Kinatemuk spoke Uto-Aztecan languages.

They were hunter-gatherers who specialized in basketry--so much so that Southwestern tribes would travel to the region just for baskets. Acorns were an an important staple, often made into cakes or a porridge called *weewish*.

Intermountain cultures believed that everything had a spirit and that spirit-helpers assisted one through life. Spirit-helpers could be gained randomly or via a vision quest. Shamans, powerful spiritual healers, assisted with vision quests and could be male or female. Of great religious significance is the mourning anniversary, an annual gathering to commemorate the deceased.

When gold was discovered in 1848 in San Francisco, the influx of American settlers pushed Native peoples out. During this time, the Ghost Dance became popular. It was a ritual meant to revive the dead and eliminate white settlers.

Today, California Intermountain peoples are working to keep their customs alive; shamanism, mourning anniversaries, and vision quests are still important to this day.

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Name: ______________________ Date: __________

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

n?

and how many languages where spoken prior to European arrival?

s region specialize in?

do?

the natives of this region?

ople keeping their traditions alive today?

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Native American Regions: California Intermountain

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Answer the following questions based on the passage you read.

U.S. states comprise this region?

s California, Nevada, Utah, Baja California, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, and Idaho.

any people lived in this region and how many languages where spoken prior to European arrival?

uropean arrival, California was home to roughly 300,000 people due to its hospitable climate. More than 200 s and dialects were spoken by the over 100 tribes in the area.

andicraft did the people in this region specialize in?

e hunter-gatherers who specialized in basketry--so much so that Southwestern tribes would travel to the region askets.

re shamans and what do they do?

powerful spiritual healers, assisted with vision quests and could be male or female.

d the discovery of gold affect the natives of this region?

d was discovered in 1848 in San Francisco, the influx of American settlers pushed Native peoples out. During the Ghost Dance became popular. It was a ritual meant to revive the dead and eliminate white settlers.

e California Intermountain people keeping their traditions alive today?

lifornia Intermountain peoples are working to keep their customs alive; shamanism, mourning anniversaries, quests are still important to this day.

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Native American Regions: Southwest

Native Americans of the Southwest lived in what is now Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and northern Mexico. Despite the dryness, this region has fertile soil that has supported indigenous peoples since 2000 BC.

Many languages were spoken here, such as the Athabaskan, Penutian, Hokan, Tanoan, and Uto-Aztecan languages. In the west, the Hopi, Zuni, Yuma, Paiute, Navajo, Apache, and Hano lived on the Colorado Plateau. To the east, the Cochiti, Santa Ana, San Felipe, Tesuque, Sandia, and Picuris lived along the Rio Grande.

Water was extremely important, and tribes such as the Zuni and Yuma practiced irrigation to grow corn, beans, and squash. Pueblos, multi-story, square-shaped homes made of stone and adobe, housed multiple families.

Nomads like the Navajo and Apache lived in less permanent dwellings such as the tipi or hogan, round homes made of logs or stone reinforced with mud and bark. These tribes were hunter-gatherers that often raided villages.

After European contact, the Southwest endured violent Spanish colonists who enslaved and killed many Native Americans. Following the Mexican War in the 1800s, the area became a part of the United States, and Native Americans in the region were forced onto reservations. To avoid persecution, many tribes began to practice their traditional religions and customs in secret and still maintain this secrecy today.

Although little is known about these practices, it seems that Southwest tribal beliefs centered on animism--the belief that everything has a spirit--and shamanism. Shamans, people with great spiritual knowledge, are highly respected, even today.

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Name: ______________________ Date: __________

ver the following questions based on the passage you read.

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ople able to grow in this region?

t people live?

he Mexican War?

their customs in secrecy?

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ANSWER KEY

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PREVIEW