



History Knowledge Organiser:

Non European Unit: Native Americans



Overview



The Native Americans are the indigenous people of North America. The Sioux are the first people of the American Plains. We look at their culture in the 19th century around the time of The Victorians in Britain.



Big questions/ideas



Who were these people?
What makes them so interesting?
Were they very different from us now?
What was Britain like at this time?
Were they very different from us then?
Were they important? What was their legacy?
Can we learn anything from them?
Were they really so blood thirsty and 'savage'?



Chronology



Native Americans had lived for thousands of years in America

From around 1500AD/CE Europeans began to travel to America and have contact with these people
This is the time of the Tudors back home in Britain.

In the 19th century (the years of the 1800s) more details of how these people lived became known in what was Victorian Britain. As Europeans were at war with these people, a lot of what was told was negative.

By 1900 their way of life was dying out



Main skills



Historical enquiry: asking own questions...research using a variety of sources for inference and usefulness/reliability

Analysis of historical interpretation: weigh up and conclude in answer to a big question such as Were they very different from us?
Was it fair to label them as 'savage'?

Organisation and communication: writing an extended piece in answer to the above



Key vocabulary



indigenous people

the first to live in a place

culture

way of life

stereotype

set image of a group of people

traditional

goes back a long way...people see it as accepted way

propaganda

one sided information often intended to twist the truth

nomadic

do not live in one place but move around during the year

'green'

taking care of the environment

Mother Earth

their way of thinking about nature

What did they do for us?



As a group of people who Europeans were at war with in the relatively recent past and who Europeans saw as inferior(not as good as they were)...Europeans did not want to learn from them. However, there are various foods/crops that we now have that were first grown or used by these people such as

Potatoes!
Corn on the cob
Tomatoes
Tobacco

More recently this lifestyle has been seen as a 'green' one that we can learn from today. These people were very careful with their resources and treated nature with great respect. They did not pollute the earth and they did not waste what they had or throw away in the way that we do.



Curriculum links and further research



- ❖ Christian Values: tolerance and justice...how to treat cultures that are different from ours
 - ❖ PE – sports like lacrosse
 - ❖ Art/DT – design totem poles
 - ❖ Geography – location and use of resources
 - ❖ Music- listen to traditional music
 - ❖ RE – what were their religious beliefs?
- ❖ PSCH – how we treat the environment....what can we learn from them? How did they treat each other? What rules did they have? Were they respectful of each other?

Great, brief overview from BBC bitesize =

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/shp/americanwest/lifestyle_rev1.shtml

