

KHS—History Knowledge Organiser—Half Term 5 - Native Americans

Key Dates: **c1600** - Horses brought to America by the Spanish.

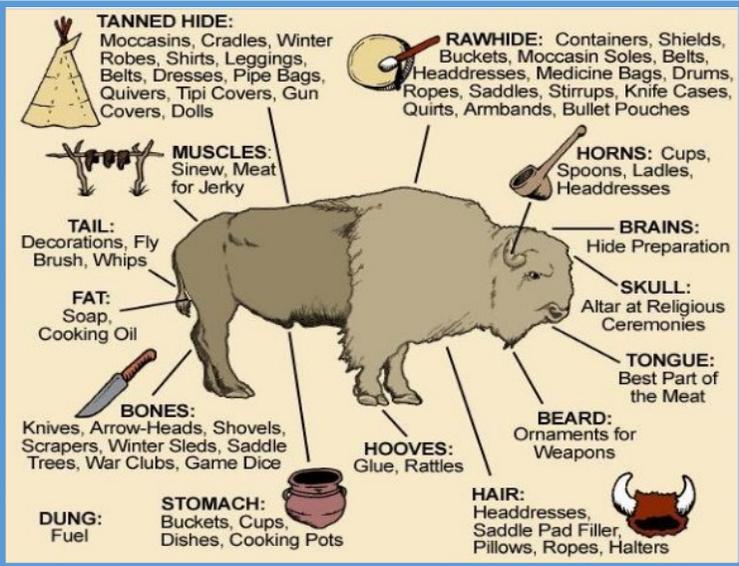
1640 - Pueblo Indians defeat and drive out the Spanish. They captured their horses.

1776-83 - War of Independence, Britain no longer has control. White Americans begin to move west.

1830 - Indian Removal Act, Whites move 46,000 eastern Indians West of the Mississippi river.

1834 - The Permanent Indian Frontier established. No whites will trespass on Indian Land.

1848 - Americans win war with Mexico. Gold found in California. Thousands invade Indian lands.



By the end of this Half Term I should know:

Who the Plains Indians were and how they adapted to live on the Great Plains (grasslands of north America).

How Native American beliefs differed from those held by whites Europeans.

How Native Indian society was structured and the roles and responsibilities of the people within it.

Why the buffalo was so important to the Indians.

How horses changed the lives of the Native Indians.

Native American beliefs regarding warfare.

Key Terms:

Environment: The area in which people live (surroundings).

Great Plains: North American Grasslands where many Native Americans lived.

Uninhabitable: An area or place that is unfit for people to live, e.g. a desert.

Tribe: A specific type of Native American Indian with their own traditions and ways, e.g. the Sioux, Comanche, Apache, Blackfoot Crow and Pawnee.

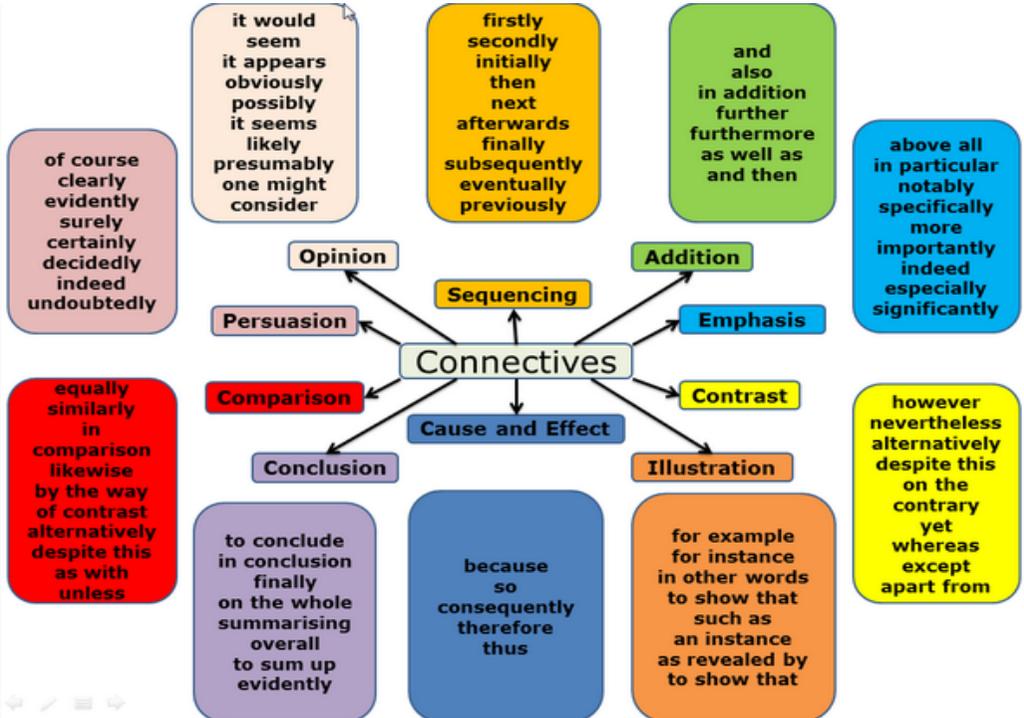
Band: A family or friendship group within a tribe - has its own chief and council.

Spirits: Holy and powerful beings like gods, also the souls of ancestors.

Nomadic: No fixed home, moving around the Great Plains to follow the buffalo.

Counting Coup: A type of warfare where points were scored by hitting braves or stealing horses from other tribes and returning to their the own camp unharmed.

Tipi: A tent made from buffalo hides which was designed to be taken down and packed away in minutes by the women, allowing the tribe to move quickly.



Who were the Native American Indians and how did they live?: There were many different **Indian nations** living in North America when the white Europeans began to develop it (about 1840). Over many thousands of years the **native Indians** had successfully **adapted** their lifestyle to the different **environments** in which they lived. For example, **tipis** were developed; a type of tent that could be packed away in minutes but could stand up to the most fierce storms. Europeans at this time viewed the **Great Plains** of North America as an **uninhabitable desert**. These Great Plains or **grasslands** of the North American continent lie between the **Mississippi River** and the **Rocky Mountains** and on early maps were marked as the '**great American desert**'.

North American Indian Society: Native Indian way of life was completely different from what the White Europeans had expected. The two **clashed** over many things including **attitudes towards the elderly, nomadic lifestyle, spiritual beliefs, beliefs on battle and leadership**. Indian **tribes** were divided into **bands**. These Bands were family groups and seen as very important. Each Band lived separately but would come together for **feasts or to arrange marriages**. The bands were led by **chiefs** who had **councils** of advisers and all council members had to agree on everything the band did. Men and women had very different roles in Native Indian society: men were in charge of hunting and fighting whilst women were in charge of looking after the tipis. Both, raised their children.

The importance of the buffalo: At first the Native Americans had very **limited technology**. They were hunter-gatherers who gathered maize, squash, beans and turnips (asking permission from the spirits of the land before pulling them up). They also hunted deer, rabbits, ducks and turkeys, but their main source of food and supplies was the **buffalo**. The early Native Indians hunted for buffalo on foot. They would often **disguise** themselves by using **animal skins** such as **wolves**. They would crawl through the long grass until close enough to use their bow and arrows. The Native American Indians wasted nothing, using every part of the buffalo. For example the meat, which was eaten, bones for knives, arrow heads and shovels, fat for soap and cooking oil, the brains for waterproofing and even the dung for fuel.

The horse, most important Indian possession: There were no **horses** in America until the 1600s, when the Spanish invaded and bred them for their own use. In 1640, **Pueblo Indians** rose up against the Spanish, drove them out and **captured their horses**. They kept some and sold the rest to other tribes. At first they traded and stole horses. Gradually, they realised the horses' **full potential**. They used horses to hunt the buffalo, to help them **transport** their belongings, for war and for the sheer delight of riding fast and performing feats of skill. Horses enabled many Native Indians to live a **nomadic lifestyle** on the Great Plains and follow the buffalo as they **migrate**. By 1820 Indians were measuring their own wealth, and the wealth of the tribe, in horses.

The Importance of War: The Native American concept of **bravery** was completely different from that of the Europeans who lived on the Plains. They thought it was stupid to stand and fight to the death if there was no chance of winning. Instead they would slink away and return another day to **steal horses**. To them it was more **honourable** to stay alive to provide for your family. When an Indian killed a person in battle, he **scalped** them and took the scalp back to camp. Indians believed that if you had a warriors scalp you had their **soul**. Therefore, they would not be in heaven to fight you. Warfare between tribes became a great game based on scoring points. It developed **ambush and horse stealing techniques**. The scoring was called '**Counting Coup**', meaning points for touching or striking an enemy with hand or weapons.

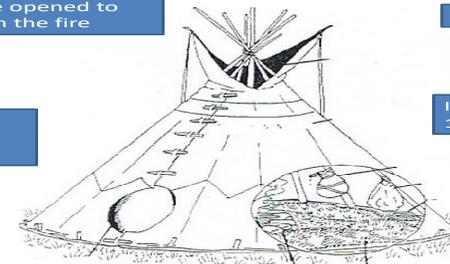
Knowledge Recall – key features

Flaps at the top can be opened to blow away smoke from the fire

Its shape can resist wind

Easy to take down and put up again (10 to 15 minutes)

It is made from between 10 to 20 buffalo skins.



The bottom can be rolled up to let air flow through in the summer and banked up in Winter