Native Americans in North Carolina

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Warm Up
Native Americans in North Carolina

American Indian Tribes in North Carolina

- Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation (Orange & Alamance)
- Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe (Halifax & Warren)
- Sappony (Person)
- Meherrin Indian Tribe (Hertford)
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Graham, Jackson, and Swain)
- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina (Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland)
- Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe (Bladen & Columbus)

* Urban American Indian Organizations
Humans first appeared in North Carolina between 10,000 and 8,000 BC. These first humans are called, “Archaic Peoples”

- They were nomads, meaning they roamed around in search of food and supplies.
- They used simple tools made of stone and wood
- These Archaic Indians did not have three things that are commonly associated with prehistoric Indians—bows and arrows, pottery, or an agricultural economy.
Around 2000 BC, people in North Carolina began transition to “Woodland culture”. These “Woodland Indians” shared many traits with their Archaic ancestors, like hunting & gathering, but they also began to:

- Farm (corn, sunflowers, squash, beans)
- Develop new technologies - bows and arrows- which made hunting more efficient.
- Settle in semi-permanent villages
- Adopted political and religious ideas from the Mississippian, another major prehistoric culture.
- Hierarchical society (status determined by heredity or exploits in war)
- Art
- Trade and tribute networks
Native American Tribes in 1550
European Contact

- Most of the Indian groups met by early European explorers were practicing economic and settlement patterns of the Woodland culture.

- They grew crops of maize, tobacco, beans, and squash, spent considerable time hunting and fishing, and lived in small villages.

- In 1550, before the arrival of the first permanent European settlers, more than one hundred thousand Native Americans were living in present-day North Carolina.

- By 1800 that number had fallen to about twenty thousand.

Why do you think the Native American population declined so rapidly from 1550 - 1800?
Decline of Native Populations

* The fates of the three largest tribes – Tuscarora, Catawba, & Cherokee – are representative of the fates of all the other tribes in NC
Tuscarora

* Lived in the Coastal Palin Region along the Pamlico & Neuse River

* As the number of European settlers grew, they began to clash with the Tuscarora. The settlers
  * refused to allowed Tuscarora to hunt near their farms
  * broke treaties with the Tuscarora
  * sold the Tuscarora into slavery

* The Tuscarora attempted to leave NC, but some colonial laws prevented Native American immigration to other colonies.

* In 1711, a war broke out when the Tuscarora began attacking farms and killing the settlers.
Tuscarora War

* The Tuscarora War lasted from 1711 to 1715. The result was a defeat for the Tuscarora.

* At the end of the war:
  * Up to 1,400 Tuscarora were killed
  * Up to 1,000 Tuscarora were sold into slavery

* Many of the survivors left NC and settled in New York where they joined the Iroquois Confederacy.

* Some remained in NC and were relocated to an area in Bertie County.
Catawba

* Diseases brought by Europeans – smallpox, typhus, cholera, and measles – wreaked havoc on Native populations across North & South America.

* The Catawba were no exception. According to population estimates, the Catawba numbered 5,000 in the early 1600s to 300 in the 1780s.

Drawing accompanying text in Book XII of the 16th-century Florentine Codex (compiled 1540–1585), showing Nahuas of conquest-era central Mexico suffering from smallpox.
Cherokee

* Lived in the Mountain Region of Western North Carolina and in parts of Georgia, South Carolina, Kentucky, and Alabama.

* Originally allied with the British colonists in their fight against the French during the French & Indian War (1754-1763), but they began attacking Europeans after some Cherokee were killed by settlers from Virginia.

* In return for peace, the British promised that no White settlements would be allowed west of the Appalachian Mountains. However, this agreement was broken by settlers.

* During the American Revolution (1775–1783), the Cherokee sided with the British. They thought that if the British won:
  * they would protect their land from further settlement.
  * give them back some of the land they lost to American settlers.

* They were defeated by the colonists and forced to give up all lands east of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
Cherokee Resettlement

- Conflicts continued through the 1790s.

- In 1792, the US government promised to protect Cherokee land from further settlement.

- Throughout the 1830s, many Cherokee across the Southeastern US were forcibly relocated to Oklahoma.
  - Indian Removal Act
  - Trail of Tears

- Many Cherokee in North Carolina managed to avoid US troops by hiding out in the mountains.

- These Cherokee later joined with other Native Americans, who were allowed to stay in NC, to form the present-day Eastern Band of Cherokee.
What would you do?

* Choose one of the three tribes we just discussed (Tuscarora, Catawba, & Cherokee) and imagine that you are a member of that tribe during one of the following time periods:
  * Tuscarora in 1715
  * Catawba in 1780s
  * Cherokee in 1775 or 1830s

* Assuming the role of the tribe’s leader, write a short 2 – 3 paragraph diary entry about the difficulties facing your tribe and decide on a course of action (e.g. leave NC, stay in NC, fight back, etc.) for your tribe and explain the reason(s) for your decision.

* Be prepared to share your entry with the class
Native American Art Discussion Questions

As you view each station, discuss the following questions as a group:

- What do you see here?
- What do you think is the message of this artwork?
- What symbols, words, images, figures, colors, etc. jump out at you as you view this artwork?
- Are there any similarities between this piece of artwork and others you’ve viewed?
Native American art history has developed over thousands of years and consists of several distinctive styles due to the diversity of American Indian tribes. Each tribe has a unique history, which consists of many types of American Indian arts including poetry, music, beadwork, jewelry, weaving, basketry, pottery, carvings, leatherwork, painting, and more.

Native American arts have an extremely deep connection with spirituality and Mother Nature. It’s a profoundly expressive art that has been a way of life for many Native Americans. Native American art history can be traced back to cave painting, stonework and earthenware thousands of years ago. Over the years the types of materials used by Native Americans has evolved from rocks and feathers to cloth, clay, turquoise, silver, glass and fabric.

Native American art history is strongly associated with symbols that were often linked with nature.
Cherokee Rose
By Marc McCord

Seven petals for seven tribes
growing on the trail where they cried.
Center of gold for the land white men stole.
Four thousand of my ancestors died.
The trail was long, the journey harsh
crossing a thousand miles of mountain and marsh
and in the place where proud people those
cried the tears that watered Cherokee Rose.

Oh Spirit Wolf, oh Spirit Owl
hear the winter winds that howl.
Oh Spirit Eagle, oh Spirit Deer
why did so many have to die here?

One nation prospered, one nation fell.
One went to heaven, one was sent to hell.
Cherokee Rose that blooms in spring
reminds us of the songs they sing.

White petals, a sign of those tears
that still wet the ground after a hundred fifty years
remind us all of what was lost
from proud people who bore the ultimate cost.

Seven petals for seven tribes
growing on the trail where they cried.
Center of gold for the land white men stole.
Four thousand of my ancestors died.

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Lumbee Art
Sources

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