

Native American Regions and Cultures

Grade 4 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students compare how Native American peoples in different regions adapted their homes, food sources, clothing, and ways of life to their environments before European contact. •

Standards: D2.Geo.4.3-5, D2.His.2.3-5

Read each question about how Native American peoples adapted to their environments long ago. Write your answer on the line provided.

1. Native peoples living in the Arctic region wore clothing made from animal skins and furs. Why did they need this type of clothing?
2. Some Native peoples in the Southwest built homes from adobe, which is dried mud and clay. What natural resource from their dry environment did they use?
3. Native peoples living near the ocean in the Northwest caught salmon and other fish as a main food source. What part of their environment made this possible?
4. Many Native peoples on the Great Plains followed herds of buffalo across grasslands. How did this affect where they lived?
5. Native peoples in the Eastern Woodlands used trees to build longhouses and canoes. What natural resource was plentiful in their forest environment?
6. Some Native peoples in the Southwest grew corn, beans, and squash in gardens using irrigation. Why did they need irrigation in their region?
7. Native peoples on the Great Plains made portable homes called tipis that could be taken down and moved quickly. Why was it important that their homes could be moved easily?
8. Native peoples in the Arctic hunted seals, walruses, and whales for food, oil, and materials. Explain how the ocean environment shaped their way of life.
9. Native peoples in the Northwest carved large canoes from single tree trunks and created tall wooden poles with carvings. How did the forest environment of giant trees influence their culture?

10. Compare how Native peoples in the dry Southwest and the rainy Eastern Woodlands obtained food differently. Describe one method each region used based on their environment.

Answer Key — Native American Regions and Cultures

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

- 1.** To stay warm in the very cold climate
- 2.** Clay or mud from the earth
- 3.** Rivers and the ocean with many fish
- 4.** They moved from place to place and did not stay in one location
- 5.** Wood or trees
- 6.** Their environment was dry with little rainfall
- 7.** They needed to follow the buffalo herds to hunt for food
- 8.** They depended on ocean animals because few plants grew in the cold climate
- 9.** The large trees provided wood for building canoes, homes, and creating art
- 10.** Southwest peoples grew crops using irrigation in the dry climate, while Eastern Woodlands peoples hunted in forests and grew crops with plentiful rain