

# A Glance at the First Americans

5<sup>th</sup> Grade American History

# A History of US: The First Americans

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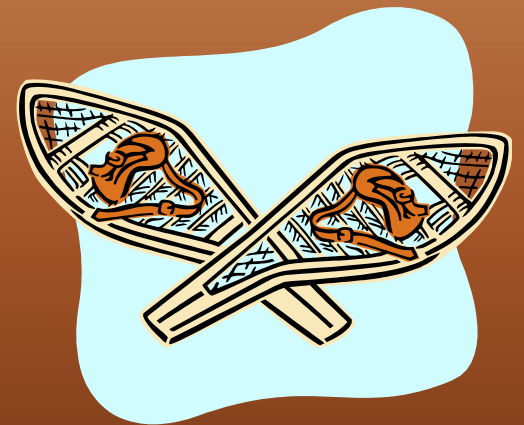
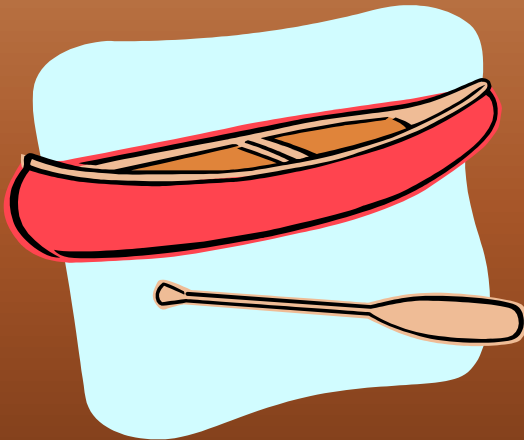
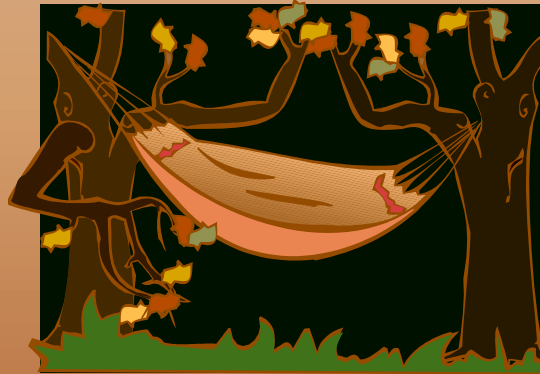
# How did the first Americans survive?

- Hunters: they made spearheads out of flint and missile launchers to hunt animals
- Gatherers: they collected roots and berries
- Farmers: they bred plants, corn, potatoes, and squash



# Native American Inventions

- Hammock
- Canoe
- Snowshoes



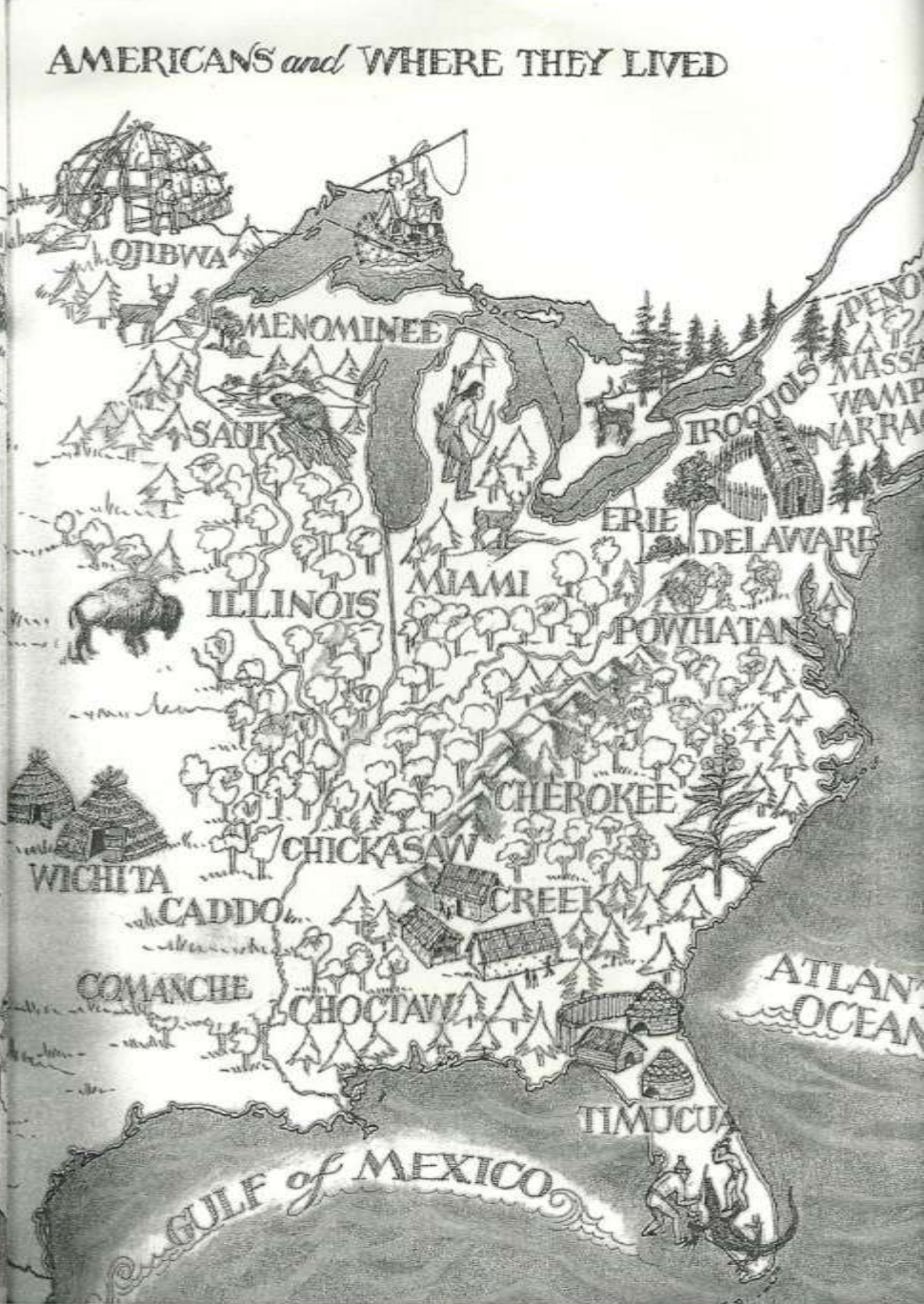
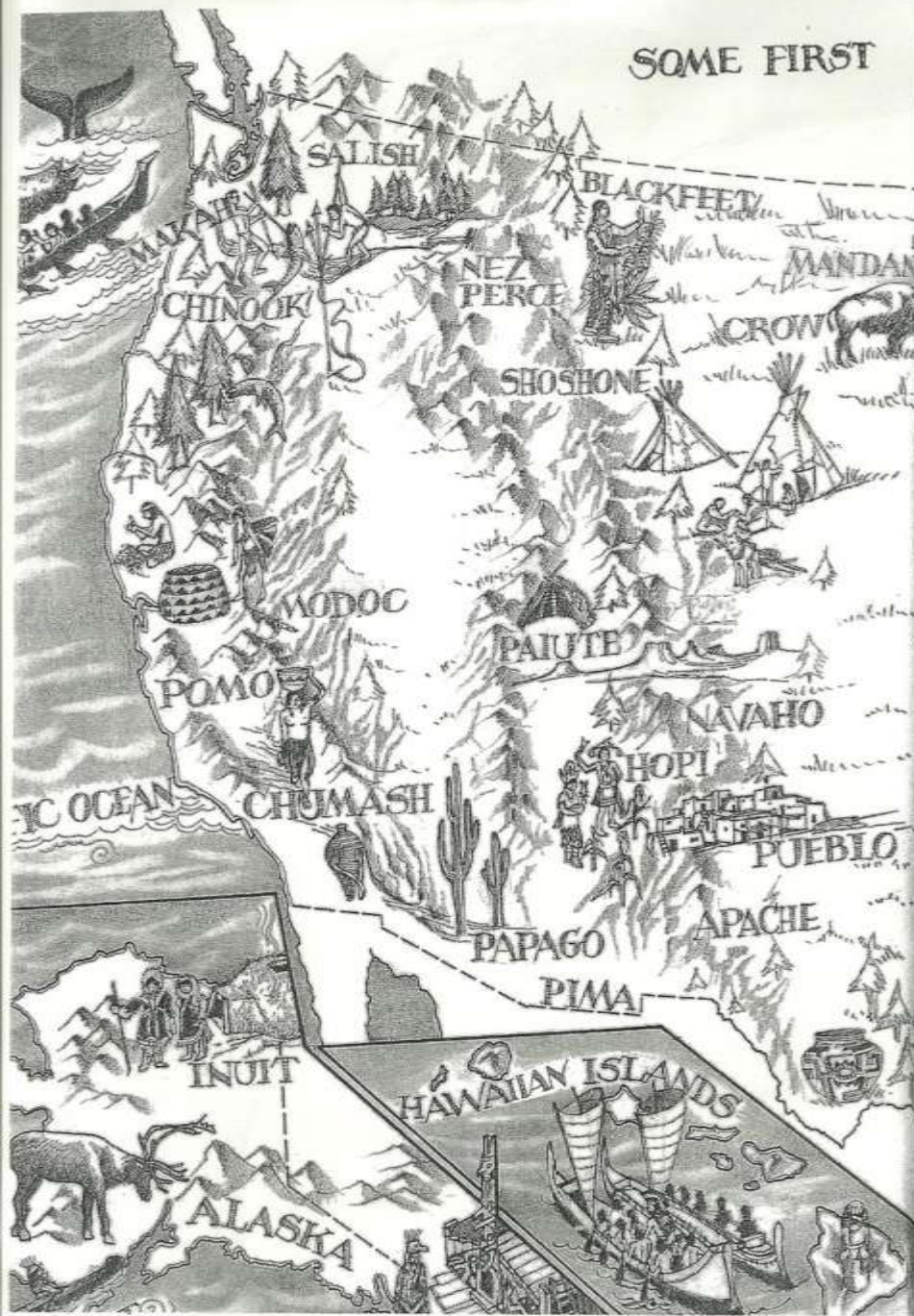
# Were horses native to America?

- No, they were brought over by the explorers from Spain along with mules and oxen. They made life a lot easier for the Native Americans!



SOME FIRST

AMERICANS *and* WHERE THEY LIVED



# Let's Go North!

- Inuit
- Alaska, tundra, very cold and few trees
- Too cold to farm
- No wood to make a fire, ate meat raw
- Igloo
- Dogsleds



# Southwest American Indians

- New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah
- Navaho, Anasazi, flat heads
- Desert





# Anasazi

- These American Indians made their homes on the stone shelf of mountains.
- They carved their homes out of the rock and with clay. They dug out rooms from the ground called *kivas*.
- Living near the river, the Rio Grande allowed them to farm.
- Drought made farm life tough





# Southwest

- Navaho
- These American Indians made their house called *pueblos* out of sun-dried clay called *adobe*.
- Mesa- flat topped mountain
- These Native Americans depended on farming but it was hard to grow crops. The land was too hot and too dry.
- Rivers were need to irrigate the crops.



# Pacific Northwest Native Americans

- Washington and Oregon
  - Chinook



# Pacific Northwest Native Americans

- Life here was easy!
- The land provided the people with everything they needed.
- Rivers, oceans, woods
- Plenty to hunt and gather
  - Fish, whales, roots, berries
- No need to farm!
- Lived in plank houses made of wooden boards
  - Several families lived together in one plank house
- These people were affluent (wealthy)



THE WEDDING PARTY - QAGSTHEL

# Totem Poles

- The Pacific Northwest Indians carved animal and human figures on large wooden poles



# Affluent



- The Pacific Northwest Indians were considered wealthy.
- They had so much that they had plenty of time for leisurely fun and games
  - Music
  - Dance
- They did not share everything within the tribe like many other Native American nations did.
- They cared about wealth, property, and prestige (reputation)
- They wore fancy dress up clothes.





The Pacific Northwest Native Americans liked their parties. A potlatch was a big feast that lasted for days and when it was over the host would give away most of his finest possessions to his guests. The next person to throw a big potlatch party always tried to make it bigger and better than the last person's.



# The Great Plains



- This region stretched across from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River.
- Tall grasses cover much of the land with few trees,
- The people who lived here were nomads moving from place to place, following animal trails.
- It was difficult to farm in this area.
- Gathered nuts and berries.

# Life on the Plains

- These were some of the poorest and hungriest American Indians.
- They had bows and arrows to hunt, but it was tough work without horses (those would come later).
- These people lived in teepees
  - Made from animal skins
  - Easy to put up and take down



# Hunting Buffalo



- Nothing goes to waste!
  - The skin was used to make teepees
  - Made ropes and wool
  - Sinews for thread
  - Bones to make awls
  - Dung for firewood
  - Bladders for jugs and water containers

# Things Get A Little Easier

- Horses changed the lives of the Plains Indians.
- Horses made hunting the giant buffalo much easier!
- Now these people became affluent and a bit wasteful.
- They decorated themselves with feather headdresses.



# Eastern Woodland Indians

- East of the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean.
- Mound Builders
- Woodland Indians



# Mound Builders



These dirt mounds were created for graves, platforms for temples, and for religious symbols. In these mounds, archeologists have found artifacts that give us clues to the life of these American Indians. They learned that these people were great traders.

# Trading

- There were many great rivers in this area for trading.
- Native American cities were built by these trade rivers.
- Cahokia City
  - Large slave society
  - These slaves (*stinkards*) were captured in battles with rival tribes
  - The high ranking women of the city married the slaves so they may rise up in society
- The city disappeared and no one knows why.







# Eastern Woodland Government

- The chiefs were called *sachems*
- Their government was a democratic league of 5 American Indian nations.
- Each nation had its own laws (confederacy) except when issues of war came up.
- The big decisions (war) were decided by a council of all the tribes
  - 10 males from each tribe would sit on the council
  - These men were chosen by the women (women had much respect)
  - Everyone on the council had to agree



# Newcomers



- The lives of the Native Americans changed when the Europeans came.
- They had a very different culture than the culture of the American Indians.
- These people would have a hard time getting along together.

# Picture Websites

- <http://mcclungmuseum.utk.edu/permanent/native/archaic.shtml>
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/rwolf/5168703158/>
- [http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/polar/inuit\\_culture.html](http://www.windows2universe.org/earth/polar/inuit_culture.html)
- <http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/>
- <http://kids.britannica.com/elementary/art-88204/The-effigy-mound-called-Serpent-Mound-was-built-by-Native>
- <http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~anthro/archy/socialcomplexity.html>
- <http://www.sanders-studios.com/illustration/artpage/history/iroquoislonghouse.html>
- [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/liberty\\_state\\_park/liberty\\_colonial.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/liberty_state_park/liberty_colonial.html)
- [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)