

Knowledge Organiser – Native Americans

Was invading and settling in North America the right thing to do?

Timeline of events:

1492: Christopher Columbus discovers America

1607: Jamestown is founded. Captain John Smith taken captive by the Powhatan tribe and is saved from execution by Pocahontas

1613: Pocahontas is kidnapped by the Jamestown settlers and held ransom for the return of stolen weapons and English prisoners. She learns English and meets colonist John Rolfe.

1614: Pocahontas marries John Rolfe – this brings some peace between the settlers and the Powhatan tribe in Jamestown.

1788: Sacagawea is born – she grows up as a member of the Shoshone Tribe in the Rocky Mountains

1804: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark begin their expedition in St. Louis. Sacagawea and her husband, Toussaint Charbonneau, help them by being their guides and interpreters.

1830: The Indian Removal Act is passed.

1835: The Second Seminole War, the longest and most expensive war that the US army ever fought in, begins.

1838: The Trail of Tears: Due to the Indian Removal Act, the Cherokee tribe are forcibly moved away from where they live by the United States government. They are made to march from North Carolina to Oklahoma. Around 4,000 Cherokees die during the journey

1842: The Second Seminole War ends. Around 1,500 men have been killed.

1881: Sitting Bull is forced to surrender, along with 186 members of his army. He is now a prisoner of war.

1883: Sitting Bull is released from prison.

1885: Sitting Bull begins touring with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

1890: Around 200 Native Americans, including women and children, are killed at the Wounded Knee Massacre.

1990: The Native American Languages Act allows the language to be used as a way of giving instructions in school. This also aims to preserve and protect Native American languages

Key Vocabulary/Terminology:

Native: born in a certain place or country

Europeans: people from Europe

Colonist/Settler: a person who settles in a new colony or moves into new country

Expedition: a journey for a particular purpose; a group of people traveling for exploration or adventure

Surrender: the act of giving up after a struggle

Execution: to kill according to a legal order

Interpreter: a person who turns spoken words of one language into a different language

Prisoner of war: a fighter who has been captured by the forces of the enemy, during an armed conflict.

Era: a long and distinct period of history.

Century: a period of one hundred years.

Native Indian Reservations: is land that is set aside for **Native Americans** by the United States government

Important facts:

Native Americans are referred to as American Indians because when Columbus discovered America, at first, he thought he was in India – the name stuck!

Native Americans lived throughout North and South America. In the United States there were Native Americans in Alaska, Hawaii, and the mainland of the United States. Different tribes and cultures lived in different areas. In the middle of the country lived the Plains Indians.

The Native Americans were grouped into tribes or nations usually based on the area they lived in and their culture such as their religion, customs, and language. There were hundreds of tribes throughout the United States when Columbus first arrived. Many of them are well known such as the Cherokee, Apache, and the Navajo.

Today, some of the descendants of the original American Indians live on reservations. These are areas of land set aside specifically for Native Americans. This helps to protect their heritage and culture. However, only around 30% live on reservations. The rest live outside the reservations just like anyone else.