

Lesson 1: The Eastern Woodlands

Vocabulary

tribe a group of families bound together under a single leadership; often used to describe people who share a common culture

league a group that people form to unite them for a purpose

cultural region an area in which people of similar cultures live

longhouse a long, narrow building the Iroquois used for shelter

wampum polished seashells hung on strings or woven into belts

reservation land set aside by the United States government for Native Americans

The Iroquois

In about 1580, five Native American **tribes** joined together to form the Iroquois League. A **league** is a group that unites for a special purpose. Each tribe sent 50 representatives to a Great Council. The Great Council made decisions for the entire League. The Iroquois Trail linked the League's lands. The trail ran through what is today New York State. There is a legend about how the Iroquois League began. Before the league formed, the five tribes often fought against one another. A man named Deganawidah wanted the five tribes to stop fighting and treat one another fairly. Another man, Hiawatha, got the tribes to bury their weapons and join together.

Living in the Woodlands

The Iroquois lived in the Eastern Woodlands **cultural region** of North America. Similar cultures develop within an area because of the resources there. The Eastern Woodlands had many resources. There were trees, animals, lakes, rivers, and streams. The Iroquois grew crops and hunted animals. They also fished in the area's waters. The Iroquois lived in longhouses made from trees. **Longhouses** were long, divided buildings shared by many families. The Iroquois also used trees to make canoes. They made clothing from animal skins.

Iroquois Beliefs and Customs

The Iroquois were thankful for the animals, plants, and world around them. The Iroquois made up stories and dances about the world around them. An Iroquois custom was to make **wampum**, or polished seashells hung on strings. Belts made of wampum were given as gifts, and wampum could be used to invite others to peace talks.

The Iroquois Today

There are about 50,000 Iroquois today. Many live on **reservations** in northern New York State. The Iroquois Great Council still meets. Some Iroquois men have become well known as builders of very tall buildings.

Lesson 2: The Great Plains

Vocabulary

lodge a large, round hut built over a deep hole

tepee a tent made of poles covered with buffalo hides

travois two poles that hold a load between them

powwow a gathering of Native Americans

Life on the Plains

The Great Plains is a flat region with few trees. Millions of buffalo lived in the region. Several groups of Native Americans lived in the Great Plains cultural region. They set up villages near rivers so they had enough water for farming. They built **lodges** to live in. In summer and fall, the Plains people hunted buffalo. They used the buffalo for food, clothing, blankets, and other materials. While out hunting, the Plains people lived in **tepees**. They used poles to form a **travois** to carry buffalo meat and other goods. Dogs were used to pull the travois.

The Cheyenne

People from Spain brought horses to North America. In the 1700s the Cheyenne began to own horses. Using horses changed their lives. Horses made buffalo hunting much easier. Horses also helped the Cheyenne move more easily. They used horses instead of dogs to pull the travois. The Cheyenne began to move to different places for different seasons. They also rode horses in battles. Horses became very important to other Plains Indians too. Sometimes tribes captured horses from other tribes.

The Cheyenne Today

About 12,000 Cheyenne live on the Great Plains today. Many live on a reservation in Montana. They come together for a **powwow**, or gathering, in Montana every Fourth of July. Here the Cheyenne perform dances and play games that are hundreds of years old.

Lesson 3: The Southwest Desert

Vocabulary

pueblo a village

Living in a Dry Land

Several tribes, such as the Hopi and the Zuni, lived in the Southwest Desert cultural region. These people are called Pueblo Indians because they lived in villages. **Pueblo** is the Spanish word for *village*. The Pueblo were farmers. Many people believe that the Anasazi are the Pueblo's ancestors. Like the Anasazi, the Pueblo used irrigation to grow food. They also built apartment-style buildings. The Hopi men governed the villages. The men made cloth. The Hopi women owned the property. The women made baskets.

The Need for Rain

The Hopi and other tribes needed rain to survive in the dry desert. The Hopi believed that beings called kachinas could bring rain. The people performed special dances to honor the kachinas and ask for their help. The dancers wore masks that looked like kachinas. The Hopi also performed the snake dance when they needed rain. Dancers would dance with snakes in their teeth. Then they let the snakes go. The snakes looked like streams of water. The dances were very important to everyone in the villages.

The Hopi Today

More than 7,000 Hopi now live on a reservation in northeast Arizona. They still live in villages. One of these villages is Oraibi. Oraibi was started in about 1050. It is probably the oldest town in the United States. Many Hopi still follow their ancient customs, such as the kachina dance and snake dance. But the Hopi also live modern lives. They built New Oraibi, a more modern town near the older Oraibi.

Lesson 4: The Northwest Coast

Vocabulary

potlatch a large party given by Native Americans; the people holding the party give gifts and food to their guests

totem pole a carved post with animals or other images that represented a person's ancestors

shaman a person Native American people went to when they were sick

Rich Resources

The Northwest Coast was very rich in natural resources. Native Americans in the area, such as the Kwakiutl, got everything they needed from the land and water. They built canoes from the area's many trees. They also fished and hunted for seals, sea otters, and whales. They could hunt and gather so much that they did not need to grow food. All these resources allowed the tribes to give many gifts to others. Giving to others and showing wealth was very important to the Kwakiutl. They held **potlatches**, or parties, where they gave away blankets and shields made of copper. They also carved tall **totem poles** and dugout canoes out of wood. The animals and other images on totem poles represented a person's ancestors. Totem poles also showed wealth. The Kwakiutl became master wood carvers.

Customs and Traditions

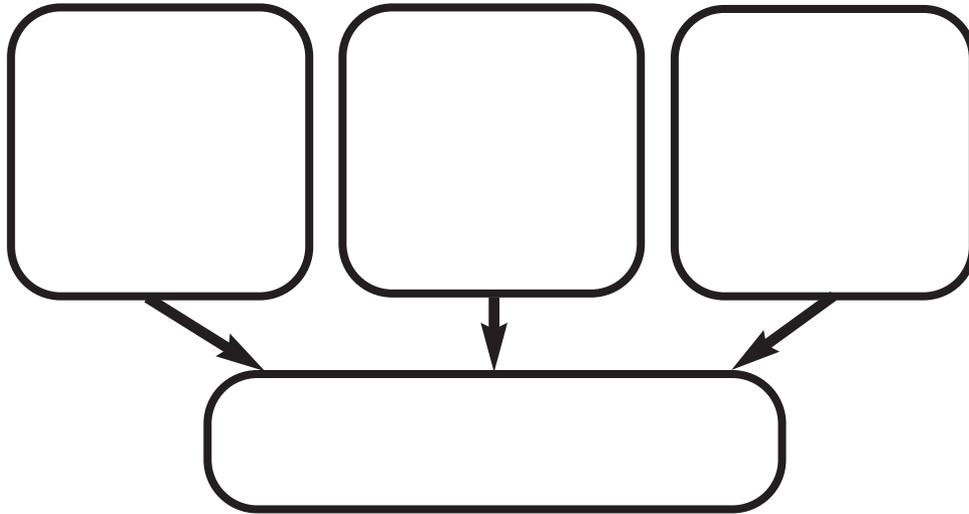
Shamans were important people in the Kwakiutl culture. The Kwakiutl people believed that shamans could cure them if they were ill. Both men and women could be shamans. Shamans helped people by performing dances. They wore carved masks. Special effects, such as smoke, were used to make the dances more exciting. Because food was easy to find, the Kwakiutl had time to carve and paint beautiful objects. Houses were made from cedar trees. Clothing was made from cedar tree bark and animal fur. The coastal climate was mild, so the Kwakiutl could often wear light clothing.

The Kwakiutl Today

Three hundred years ago, there were 15,000 Kwakiutl. Today there are only about 4,000. Many of the people work in logging, construction, or fishing. They continue to practice many of their older customs. They still hold potlatches. Shamans continue to serve the people. But the Kwakiutl also live in modern houses and go to see medical doctors.

Lesson 1: Review

1.  **Summarize** Choose the most important details from the lesson and organize them into a brief sentence. Fill in the chart below.



2. How did the Iroquois League make decisions?

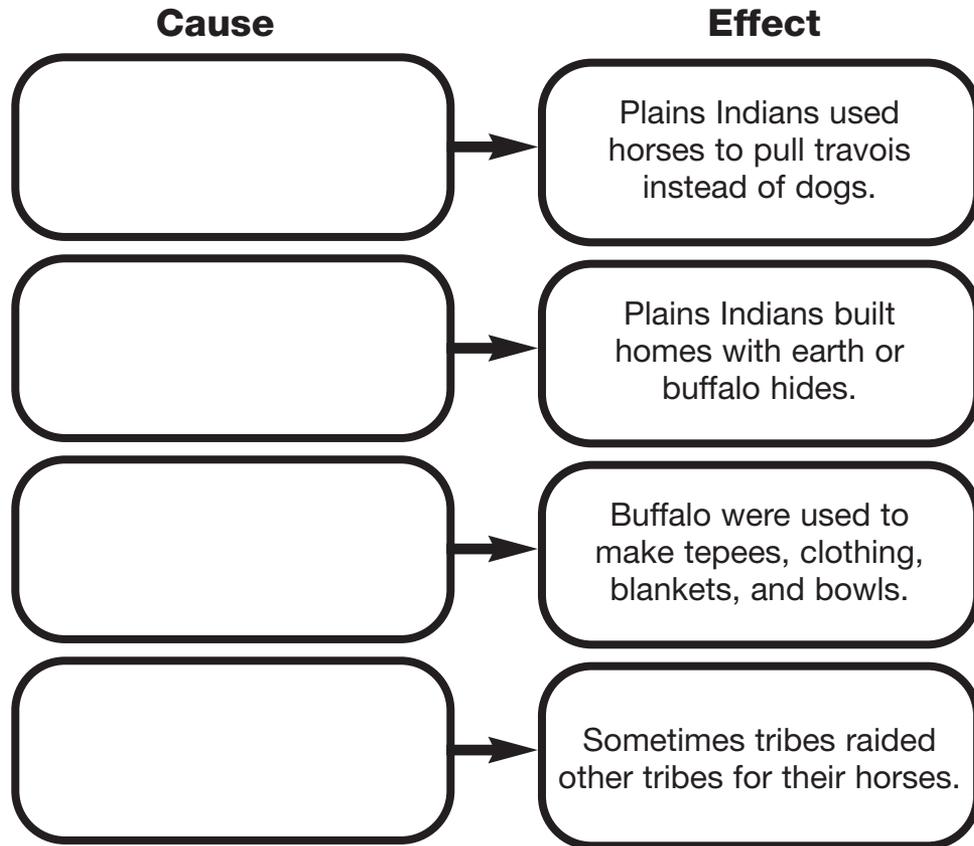
3. How did the tribes of the Eastern Woodlands use natural resources to support themselves?

4. **Critical Thinking: Point of View** Explain the point of view of Deganawidah and Hiawatha about cooperation among the five tribes.

5. Where do the Iroquois live today?

Lesson 2: Review

1. Cause and Effect Fill in the missing causes.



2. How did the travois help move goods?

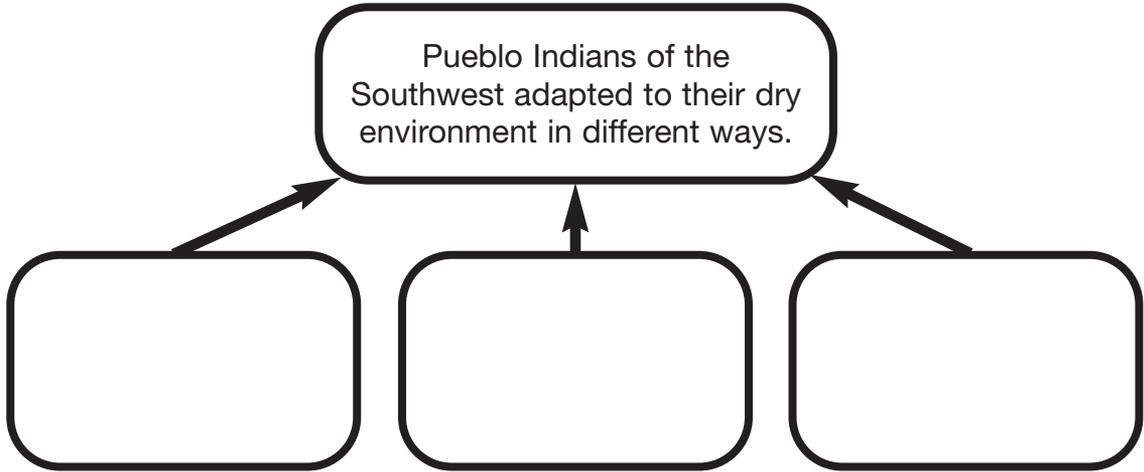
3. In what ways did the arrival of the horse change the way of life for the tribes of the Great Plains?

4. **Critical Thinking: Make Decisions** If you were a leader among the Cheyenne, how might you decide when it was time to move the settlement to a new area? Use the decision-making steps on page H3 of your textbook.

5. Where are Cheyenne reservations located today?

Lesson 3: Review

1. **Main Idea and Details** Fill in the details that support the main idea from the lesson.



2. How were Hopi villages governed?

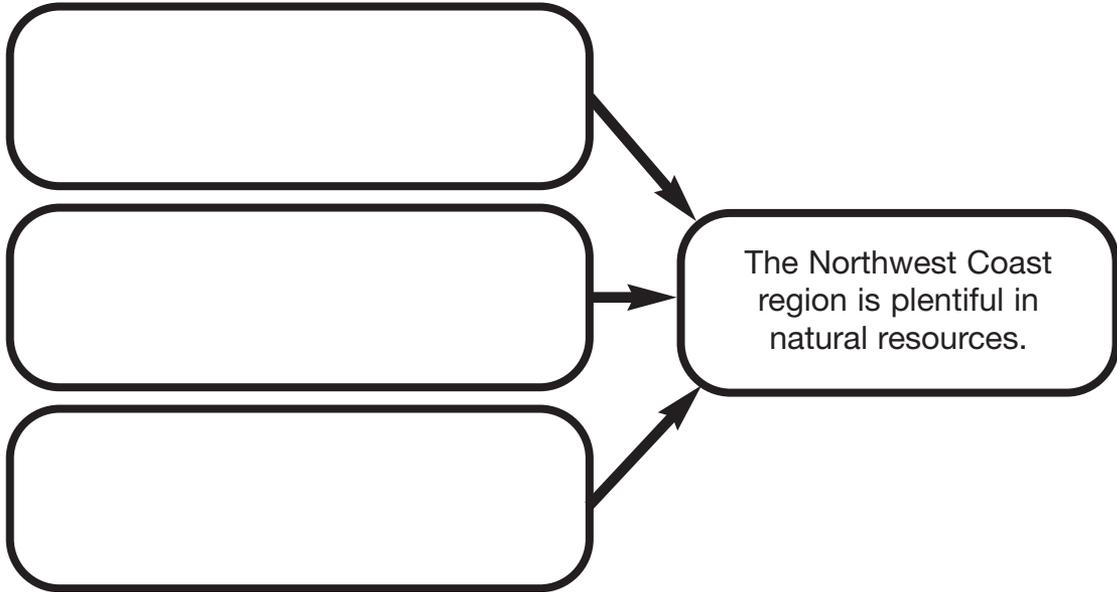
3. How were kachinas honored in Hopi ceremonies?

4. What does the difference between Oraibi and New Oraibi tell you about the Hopi culture of today?

5. **Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Pueblo people adopted Anasazi building styles? Explain.

Lesson 4: Review

1. **Draw Conclusions** Fill in the boxes with the main facts from the lesson that support the conclusion about resources from the Northwest Coast.



2. Why did Northwest Coast people give potlatches?

3. What did shamans do to help people?

4. How much has the Kwakiutl population declined over the centuries?

5. **Critical Thinking: Predict** What changes might the Kwakiutl make in their culture if all the nearby trees were cut down?
