

FIRST AMERICANS STUDY GUIDE

I. In which areas did the American Indians (First Americans) live?

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, American Indians (First Americans) were dispersed across different environments in North America.

1. **Inuit** inhabited present-day Alaska and northern Canada. They lived in Arctic areas where the temperature is below freezing much of the year.
2. **Kwakiutl** inhabited the Pacific Northwest coast, characterized by a rainy, mild climate.
3. **Sioux** inhabited the interior of the United States, called the Great Plains and characterized by dry grasslands.
4. **Pueblo** inhabited the Southwest in present-day New Mexico and Arizona, where they lived in desert areas and areas bordering cliffs and mountains.
5. **Iroquois** inhabited northeast North America, the Eastern Woodland, which is heavily forested.

II. How did geography and climate affect the way American Indian (First American) groups met their basic needs?

Geography and climate affected how various American Indian (First American) groups met their basic needs.

- The American Indians (First Americans) fished, hunted, and harvested crops for food. Clothing was made from animal skins and plants. Their shelter was made of resources found in their environment (e.g., sod, stones, animal skins, wood).

III. How did the American Indians (First Americans) and Europeans interact with each other?

The interactions between First Americans and Europeans sometimes led to cooperation and other times resulted in conflict.

Cultural interaction

- *Spanish*
 - Conquered and enslaved American Indians (First Americans)
 - Brought Christianity to the New World
 - Brought European diseases
- *French*
 - Established trading posts
 - Spread Christian religion
- *English*
 - Established settlements and claimed ownership of land
 - Learned farming techniques from First Americans
 - Traded

Areas of cooperation

- Technologies (transportation of weapons and farm tools)
- Trade
- Crops

Areas of conflict

- Land
- Competition for trade
- Differences in cultures
- Disease
- Language difference