

Native American Cultures

Destroying the Native American Cultures

When European settlers arrived on the North American continent at the end of the fifteenth century, they encountered diverse Native American cultures —as many as 900,000 inhabitants with over 300 different languages. These people, whose ancestors crossed the land bridge from Asia in what may be considered the first North American immigration, were virtually destroyed by the subsequent immigration that created the United States.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/lewisandclark/>

The People...Native Americans

"These lands are ours. No one has a right to remove us because we were the first owners. The Great Spirit above has appointed the place for us, on which to light our fires, and here we will remain." ~ Tecumseh, Native American chief, in a message to Pres. James Madison, 1810

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/native-americans/>

Indians of North America--1910-1920.

[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?pp/fsaall,app,brum,detr,swann,look,gottscho,pan,horyd,genthe,var,cai,cd,hh,yan,bbcards,lomax,ils,prok,brhc,nclc,matpc,iucpub,tgmi,lamb:@FIELD\(SUBJ+@band\(++Indians+of+North+America++1910+1920++\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?pp/fsaall,app,brum,detr,swann,look,gottscho,pan,horyd,genthe,var,cai,cd,hh,yan,bbcards,lomax,ils,prok,brhc,nclc,matpc,iucpub,tgmi,lamb:@FIELD(SUBJ+@band(++Indians+of+North+America++1910+1920++)))

Go directly to the collection, History of the American West, 1860-1920, in American Memory, or view a Summary of Resources related to the collection. Photographs from History of the American West can be used in a variety of creative writing projects. Letter writing and newspaper reporting projects can easily be integrated into the study of U.S. History topics to help build comprehension. Unusual photographs can provide a starting point for historically informed short stories, while pictures of National Parks can be used to learn image analysis and to create a travel brochure.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/hist-am-west/>

American Notes: Travels in America, 1750-1920 comprises 253 published narratives by Americans and foreign visitors recounting their travels in the colonies and the United States and their observations and opinions about American peoples, places, and society from about 1750 to 1920.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/lhtnhtml/lhtnhome.html>

Omaha Indian Music features traditional Omaha music from the 1890s and 1980s. The multiformat ethnographic field collection contains 44 wax cylinder recordings collected by Francis La Flesche and Alice Cunningham Fletcher between 1895 and 1897, 323 songs and speeches from the

1983 Omaha harvest celebration pow-wow, and 25 songs and speeches from the 1985 Hethu'shka Society concert at the Library of Congress.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/omhhtml/omhhome.html>

This digital collection integrates over 2,300 photographs and 7,700 pages of text relating to the American Indians in two cultural areas of the Pacific Northwest, the Northwest Coast and Plateau.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/pacific/>

The North American Indian by Edward S. Curtis is one of the most significant and controversial representations of traditional American Indian culture ever produced. Issued in a limited edition from 1907-1930.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/ienhtml/curthome.html>

Over 30,000 photographs, drawn from the holdings of the Western History and Genealogy Department at Denver Public Library, illuminate many aspects of the history of the American West. Most of the photographs were taken between 1860 and 1920.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/hawphome.html>

Exploring the Early Americas features selections from the more than 3,000 rare maps, documents, paintings, prints, and artifacts that make up the Jay I. Kislak Collection at the Library of Congress. It provides insight into indigenous cultures, the drama of the encounters between Native Americans and European explorers and settlers, and the pivotal changes caused by the meeting of the American and European worlds.

<http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/earlyamericas/Pages/default.aspx>

In the late 1800s, the United States supported an educational experiment that the government hoped would change the traditions and customs of American Indians. Special boarding schools were created in locations all over the United States with the purpose of "civilizing" American Indian youth. Thousands of Native American children were sent far from their homes to live in these schools and learn the ways of white culture. Many struggled with loneliness and fear away from their tribal homes and familiar customs. Some lost their lives to the influenza, tuberculosis, and measles outbreaks that spread quickly through the schools. Others thrived despite the hardships, formed lifelong friendships, and preserved their Indian identities.

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/01/indian/index.html>