

Gymnázium, Komenského 32, 075 01 Trebišov

**SEMINAR THESIS**

**FACTS AND FICTION ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS**

2013  
Trebišov

author:  
**Daniel Fedorš**  
Year of study: second

---

Gymnázium, Komenského 32, 075 01 Trebišov

**SEMINAR THESIS**

**FACTS AND FICTION ABOUT NATIVE AMERICANS**

2013  
Trebišov

author:  
**Daniel Fedorš**  
Year of study: second

---

Mentor:  
Mgr. Jana Parihuzová

## **PROCLAIM**

I hereby proclaim to have worked on this Seminar Thesis independently, in accordance with the ethical standards.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to thank my mentor Mgr. Jana Parihuzová for her helpful comments and all the valuable advices whenever I needed them.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Introduction.....</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>1 Discovering of America.....</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>2 Origin of native Americans .....</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>3 Native American tribes according to region.....</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>4 Life of Native Americans .....</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| 4.1 Ten commandments.....   | 14        |
| 4.2 Family life .....   | 14        |
| 4.3 Test of adulthood .....   | 15        |
| <b>5 Shamanism and Religion .....</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| 5.1 Rituals and ceremonies.....   | 17        |
| 5.1.1 Death ceremonies.....   | 18        |
| 5.1.2 Healing rituals.....  | 18        |
| 5.1.3 Green Corn Ceremonies (Festivals).....  | 19        |
| <b>6 The development of Native Americans .....</b>  | <b>20</b> |
| <b>7 Arrival of Europeans .....</b>   | <b>21</b> |
| <b>8 Conclusion.....</b>  | <b>22</b> |
| <b>9 List of References:.....</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| <b>10 List of Appendixes: .....</b>   | <b>24</b> |
| 10.1 Appendix A – <Native American tribes maps> .....   | 25        |
| 10.2 Appendix B – <Ancestors of the Arctic population>.....                                     | 26        |
| 10.4 Appendix C – <Bering Strait>.....  | 27        |
| 10.5 Appendix D – <Short picture dictionary of words used in Native American<br>history > ..... | 28        |

## INTRODUCTION

Many people from all over the world have very common claim that America has no history. It is argued that the most of American cities have not any real historical center. Although, America has very old and rich history, the history of Native Americans (“Indians”) is often neglected.

Based on the historical facts, the first Native American people inhabited American continent around between 10 000 and 40 000 years ago, what were a thousand years before discovering of America by Christopher Columbus or the Vikings. They lived in ranging from snow-bound regions of Canada to the deserts of New Mexico. The lifestyle of Native Americans was in due with nature environment in which they were living as well as with universe and spiritual world they revered. Although, for many years, image of the Native American “Indians” was created by the Hollywood movies as the savage “bloody thirsty” people with red faces and headbands on their heads, tomahawks<sup>1</sup> in hands, who ride on their horses. The people, that are not afraid of anything and smoking the peace pipe. But most Native American people lived in small, peaceful villages along rivers and survived by fishing, hunting and gathering wild berries, roots and nuts. They had very rich cultural traditions which varied from different tribes, spread within the territory that is now the United States. After European settlers arrived, they stole lands of Native Americans people forced them to relocate from their homes and lands into new “home”, called reservation. It was hard time for “Indians”. Moreover, the new immigrants from Europe brought also a lot of diseases that killed many Native Americans. In the present, the United States government set for Native American the land and many of these reservations are until now.

The history, culture and life of Native American is very fascinating and thus we decided to choose this topic as ours seminar thesis. In this work, we aim to elucidate and conclude known historical facts about “Indians” of North America, their first settlers coming from Asia during Ice-Age as well as about their habits and compare their previous life. We aim also to make a short dictionary of words used in Native American’s history including some photos as well as to compose the short gallery of pictures that help people understand Native Americans better.

---

<sup>1</sup>Tomahawk - A light axe used as a tool or weapon by American “Indians“ (appendix D, picture 01)

This thesis is divided into seven chapters including four subheads. In first chapter is displayed how the America was discovered and also who really discovered it. The second chapter includes known information about the origin of Native Americans. It also contains several theories that suggest the origin of Native Americans. The third chapter contains information of Native American tribes divided according to regions. Next chapter is dealing with Native Americans life, their traditions and their way of life. The fifth chapter is focusing on shamanism and religion of “Indians”. The next chapter is explaining how the Native Americans were developing. The last chapter is dealing with causes that came with Europeans.

This thesis also contains several symbols such as index <sup>[x]</sup> used for references and quotation and index <sup>x</sup> that is used for annotation below the line. References for appendixes are placed in brackets.

# 1 DISCOVERING OF AMERICA

By the time when the first European sailed to America, there were perhaps around 100 million Native Americans. The most of them were living in Central and South America. European expansion and desire to colonize oversea foreign lands were led by the rivalry between European powers at the beginning of the 15th century. The most rich and developed countries as Great Britain, France, Spain or Italy had great knowledge of certain Chinese inventions like compass or gun-powers, which wanted to use for finding the new sea route to India. In this time was India important country involved in business with Europe. Europeans, motivated by new possibilities of trade development with India, expected to get to this far country by west sea way or sail around Africa. One of the first European, who decided to beat ocean and get to India, was Christopher Columbus. Sailing under Spain's flag reached coasts of America in 1492. He expected that continent he landed is India and thus gave Native Americans name "Indians".

However, American continent was discovered almost five hundred years before Columbus by the Vikings. They were great sailors with unique knowledge to construct their ships as well as great navigation technique that allowed them to travel for far distance over open ocean. These advantages enabled Eric the Red, the first European and "father of the first colonizers of America" to reach American coast. <sup>[2]</sup> One old saying says that what the Vikings discovered, it also tried to colonize. Erik the Red and his crew settled in Greenland in 985-986, from where a few years later Erik's son Leif Ericsson was successfully sailing to the southwest to discover coasts of Canada. Leif Ericsson continued in his exploration to find beautiful and fertile country that named Vinland - country of wine.<sup>[2]</sup> He stayed there and built houses but before his dead he returned back to Greenland, to die in his homeland. The first documented contact between Vikings and natives is from Eric the Red, who described them as "little guys", that look viciously on head with big eyes and "broad face". However, Native Americans were not only "bloody thirsty" humans but also people who had sophisticated life style that fitted into environment they lived.

Although, American continent was not named by its "discover" Christopher Columbus, it would be probably named as Columbiana. America got its name in honour



of Amerigo Vespucci, the explorer that sailed to America 500 years ago and who was probably also the first European, who discovered mainland of America.

## 2 ORIGIN OF NATIVE AMERICANS

Very important questions that are asked by scientists, especially anthropologists and archaeologists, are what is the origin of the Native Americans? Where they came from? And when they entered American continent? One of the theories suggests that Native Americans were the ancestors of the people who rescued and survived from ruining of “lost continent Atlantis” or “Mu”<sup>[3]</sup>. Another theory claims that “Indians” are the survivors of the lost tribes of Israel or descendants of Egyptians or Phoenicians<sup>[4]</sup>.

No matter how are these hypotheses interesting, scientists support more realistic idea about origin of Native Americans and their arriving to American continent. Based on archaeological evidence of stone spears<sup>2</sup>, found in New Mexico that were using for hunting of Ice-Age mammals, is suggested that the first Americans came at Pleistocene, 15 000 years ago. They came from several locations in central Asia or India in few separate migrations during the Ice-age. The first population entered North America from Beringia (today Bering Strait)(appendix C), the landmass which connected Northeast Siberia to Alaska during last Ice age and settled the ice-free Pacific coastline. The second migration group arrived directly into the region of Rocky Mountains<sup>[5]</sup>. The new immigrants were mostly hunters and gatherers that gave rise to almost all modern native Americans groups of North, Central and South America, with important exception of arctic populations of Eskimo-Aleuts<sup>3</sup> and Na-Dene language<sup>[6]</sup> speakers in Canada who are biologically different from “Indians” and they belongs to mongoloid race<sup>[7]</sup>. The first Americans spread over the period of fifteen thousand years across the American continents.

The theory, which suggests that Native Americans came from Asia supports also anthropologic fact saying, that native Americans have a lot of common features with Asians. There are same pigmentations of skin, hair colour, protruding cheekbones, aquiline nose, strong predominance of blood group 0 and occurrence of Mongolian mark on the back<sup>[6]</sup>.

---

<sup>2</sup> Spear - A weapon with a long shaft and a pointed tip, typically of metal, used for thrusting or throwing

<sup>3</sup> Aleuts race, as the name suggests were the inhabitants of Aleutian Islands in the Pacific Ocean (near Bering Strait). They came from Alaska and were discovered by Bering in 1741. At that time there were about 16,000 Aleuts people but in the 20th century, their population rapidly decreased, only about 3 000. Their traditional culture disintegrated before it could be investigate.

### **3 NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES ACCORDING TO REGION**

There are more than 5,000 tribes originated in North America thus we decided to divide them into ten regions.

#### **The Arctic**

The Arctic culture area was cold, flat and treeless region near the Arctic Circle (today Alaska, Canada and Greenland) (appendix A). It was home of the Inuit and the Aleut groups. These tribes belonged to the Eskimo-Aleut language family. Their population was comparatively small and scattered because of the cold weather. They were catching fish and hunting wild animals and living in small dome-shaped houses made from sod or timber.

#### **The Subarctic**

The Subarctic culture area was mostly composed by taigas and waterlogged tundras. There are Alaska and Canada today (appendix A). 'Indians' that settled in that area were organized into two language groups: to Athabaskan speakers belong Tsattine (Beaver), Gwich'in (Kuchin) and Deg Xinag (also known as Ingalik) at the western end. Algonquian speakers were the Cree, the Ojibwa and the Naskapi and they were living at the eastern end, in small easy-to-move tents and lean-tos<sup>4</sup>. They were hunters and gatherers. When the weather got colder and was not possible to hunt, people from tribe hunkered into underground dugouts.

#### **The Northeast**

Its inhabitants were members of two main groups. Iroquoian speakers (these included the Cayuga, Oneida, Erie, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora) and Algonquian speakers (these included the Pequot, Fox, Shawnee, Wampanoag, Delaware and Menominee). They were farmers as well as catching fish or they grew crops like corn, beans and vegetables.

---

<sup>4</sup> Len-to - A structure with a single-pitch roof that is attached to the side of a building as a wing or an extension (appendix D, Picture 02)

## **The Southeast**

The Southeast culture area, north of the Gulf of Mexico and south of the Northeast (appendix A), was a fertile agricultural region. Many of its natives were expert farmers. Perhaps, the most familiar of the South-eastern indigenous peoples are the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole, sometimes called the Five Civilized Tribes, who all spoke a variant of the Muskogean language.

## **The Plains**

The Plains culture area was the region between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico today. The inhabitants spoke Siouan, Algonquian, Caddoan, Uto-Aztecan and Athabaskan languages. After European contact, when Spanish colonists brought horses to the region, the peoples of the Great Plains became more nomadic<sup>5</sup>. Groups like the Crow, Blackfeet, Cheyenne, Comanche and Arapaho used horses to pursue great herds of buffalo across the prairie. The most common dwelling for these hunters were the cone-shaped teepees<sup>6</sup>, a bison-skin tents that could be folded up and carried anywhere. Plains “Indians” were also known for their rich feathered war bonnets<sup>7</sup>. They were also farmers and hunters.

## **The Southwest**

The peoples of the Southwest culture area, Arizona and New Mexico today (along with parts of Colorado, Utah, Texas and Mexico) developed two different ways of life. The Zuni, the Yaqui and the Yuma were farmers that were living in houses, made of stones or adobe whereas the Navajo and the Apache were hunters and gatherers and they lived nomadic life.

---

<sup>5</sup> Nomad - A member of a group of people who have no fixed home and move according to the seasons from place to place in search of food, water, and grazing land.

<sup>6</sup> Tepee - A portable conical tent made of skins, cloth, or canvas on a frame of poles, used by American Indians of the Plains and Great Lakes regions (appendix D, picture 03)

<sup>7</sup> War bonnet - A ceremonial headdress used by some Plains Indians consisting of a cap or band and a trailing extension decorated with erect feathers. (appendix D, picture 04)

## **The Great Basin**

The Great Basin culture area was the area between the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains. The people mostly spoke Shoshonean or Uto-Aztecan dialects (the Bannock, Paiute and Ute, for example). Because they always moved, they lived in compact, easy-to-build wikiups<sup>8</sup> made from willow poles or saplings.

## **California**

There were around 100 different tribes and groups spoke more than 200 different dialects. These languages originated from the Penutian (the Maidu, Miwok and Yokuts), the Hokan (the Chumash, Pomo, Salinas and Shasta) and the Uto-Aztecan (the Tubatulabal, Serrano and Kinatemuk). They lived in small families and they were known as hunters and gatherers.

## **The Northwest Coast**

The Northwest Coast culture area is an area along the Pacific coast from British Columbia to the top of Northern California. The famous tribes that were living in this region were the Athapaskan Haida and Tlingit, the Penutian Chinook, Tsimshian and Coos, the Wakashan Kwakiutl and Nuuchahnulth (Nootka); and the Salishan Coast Salish. They grew crops, hunted and gathered.

## **The Plateau**

The Plateau culture area was located at the intersection of the Subarctic, the Plains, the Great Basin, the California and the Northwest Coast today Idaho, Montana and eastern Oregon and Washington) (appendix A). Most of its people lived in small, peaceful villages along stream and river banks and survived by fishing for salmon and trouts, hunting and gathering wild berries, roots and nuts.

In the southern Plateau region, there were tribes that spoke languages derived from the Penutian (the Klamath, Klikitat, Modoc, Nez Perce, Walla Walla and Yakima or Yakama).<sup>[8]</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Wikiup - a lodge consisting of a frame covered with matting or brush; used by nomadic American Indians in the southwestern United States (appendix D, picture 05)

## 4 LIFE OF NATIVE AMERICANS

One very old Native American legend says that many years ago, there was a beautiful river. Fish were living in river full of pure, sweet water and all animals came there to drink. Once, a giant moose heard about the river so he also came there to drink. But he was too big, and he drank so much, that soon the water began to sink lower and lower. The beavers were worried because the water started to vanish. The muskrats, the fish and also the other animals tried to think of a way to drive the moose from the river. Everybody was afraid of him because he was so big and nobody knew how to solve it. After long discussion, the small fly said he would drive the moose away. All the animals laughed and jeered to him but fly said nothing. That day, as soon as the moose appeared, he landed on the moose's foreleg and started to bit him until the moose was in frenzy. At last the moose fled from the river, and never come back again. The fly was very proud of his big success, to rescue water for the other animals. "Even if you are small with your body, you can be the strongest by your thinking."<sup>[1]</sup> This legend perfectly describes wisdom of Native American people, their connection with nature and nearly sacred respect to all living creatures. Let us to take you to the life of this incredibly unique and mysterious people.

Native American culture revolved closely around nature and everything in their lives was based on tight connection and harmony with the Earth. The typical characteristic of Native American's life was worshipping of the spirits of animals as gods, but they also killed them for food and clothing. They would never waste any part of the animals as everything was important for their life. They ate their meat, wore the fur and hides, and used the skin to make drums as well as the bones to make tools and weapons.

Native Americans people used skin of the animal's face as totem because they believed that the spirit of the animals can live within the tribe. These animal's faces had also to represent the spirits of family and important tribal figures. "Indians" also kept the faith every human being has the spirit of a certain animal and when he dies, his spirit can live inside the animal. Native Americans were also very good at medicine. They harvested berries to use them for various things as in medicine or dying their clothes.<sup>[9]</sup>

## 4.1 TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Native Americans were very peaceful people with strong moral values and respect to the other human being and nature. Their lives were driven by important rules that helped them how to be in balance with the nature and to keep harmony in their soul. As example, we reported several commandments that we had considered as the most interesting.

*Native American Ten Commandments:*

1. *Treat the Earth and all that dwell therein with respect*
2. *Remain close to the Great Spirit*
3. *Show great respect for your fellow beings*
4. *Work together for the benefit of all Mankind*
5. *Give assistance and kindness wherever needed*
6. *Do what you know to be right*
7. *Look after the well-being of Mind and Body*
8. *Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater Good*
9. *Be truthful and honest at all times*
10. *Take full responsibility for your actions<sup>[10]</sup>*

## 4.2 FAMILY LIFE

As we mentioned few lines above, life of Native Americans revolved especially around the nature. But how were they living? What about their families?

The life of “Indians” was so much different from ours lives today. For example, the people within the tribe usually got married in very early age. It meant that boys between 15 and 20 could married already 13 years old girls! Although, before boys reached 15, they were tested for their strength and bravery. <sup>[11]</sup> This, one of the most important “life exam” included to live alone in the wilderness for a long time. After its successful passing, parents of boy chose wife for him. Moreover, some ‘Indian‘tribes allowed men to have more than one wife. In some tribes, if man died his wife moved to his brother’s family and stayed with them.<sup>[11]</sup> Native Americans families had usually a

lot of children although because of diseases, many of them died during their birth or in an early age.

Immediately after marriage, the young couple started to live together in their own homes. The homes of Native Americans were different, according to where they lived and what material they used to build them. Some tribes built large houses with many rooms where whole family could stay together. Others had small dwellings in which were living only few people. The typical characteristic of Native Americans was that they were living in big families called clans. These clans were a group of relatives who had one common ancestor.

The food of Native Americans was very different from tribe to tribe. Those, who lived on the plains of the Central American continent usually ate the meat of buffalo. The others, who lived on the south-western part of North America ate corn, beans and squash. 'Indians' in Alaska and Canada ate fish, deer meat and other wild animals in the forests. In addition, Native Americans also collected berries and nuts. 'Indians' usually prepared their food by cooking on the fireplaces, made from hot stones.

Typical Native American was dressed with clothes made from animal skins and furs. For this purpose they specially used buffalo skin or rabbit fur as well as birds' feather to decorate their clothes and headbands. <sup>[11]</sup> There were also some tribes that did not wear clothes at all.

### **4.3 TEST OF ADULTHOOD**

The most important ceremony during life of "Indians" was "test of adulthood". Before the young man became an adult, he had to pass a specific kind of physical exam. It was not only the pain test that was presented during initiation celebrations. It was also spiritual journey, when the young man had to find his own way to the natural power through psychical torture and suffering.

The process of becoming an adult started with the instructions which shaman gave to a young man. Then man left and went to the abandoned place somewhere in a desert without any food or water. Only lent, hunger and thirst allowed individual to "pull out" from his body specific skills. The subliminal consciousness was becoming more and more powerful that it allowed him to see, hear and feel many things, more than in everyday life. Only this way of meditation that included further painful suffering was the right educational path for becoming a real man. During suffering days, the young



man was waiting for salutation. It could be salutation from bird, fish, deer, tree, stone, clouds or palm leaf. His sensory receptors were recording every little movement or sound, and that was the moment when he could feel someone's salutation, the spiritual guardian who will be with him for whole his life. <sup>[12]</sup>

## **5 SHAMANISM AND RELIGION**

Some people would say that shaman is someone like doctor, priest or rather as man with feather headband but just a few people know that shaman is considered to be something more. Shaman played the key role in the every ‘‘Indian’’ community or tribe as well as a matriarch. He had very strong spiritual abilities, and whereas the matriarch was dealing with everyday problems, he looked for shaman’s help. The members of tribe saw shaman like a person with supernatural power. He had a multiple functions in the tribe. He was the tutor for young individuals, he healed the members of tribe as well as killed enemies. Shaman also maintained connection between world of living and death and between ‘‘Indians’’ and bad spirits.

Despite of it, shaman had also the other side. He was also a bad wizard. Goodness and badness in one person. White and dark magic. To become a shaman was always connected with came hard exams and preparation. From an early age, he had to get used to use drugs and deal with a pain. Moreover, he used himself as tester when he was making drugs from herbs to know how big dose of drugs could be served to others.

Drugs were always used during the most of the ceremonies to gain illusions and only shaman knew what it means and how to explain hallucinations. During these ceremonies, some of the individuals that were influenced by drugs saw themselves, for example battling with huge anacondas, jaguars or ogres. They believed that these visions can help them to see good or bad signs in their future life. This hallucination took until the shaman called name of the person to return him back into real life. It is interesting that only the shaman knew his name because if someone else would know his name he could be killed or returned to the Earth from any place. <sup>[12]</sup>

### **5.1 RITUALS AND CEREMONIES**

Culture of Native Americans was based on ceremonies and rituals. Someone would call their spiritual ceremonies and rituals as ‘‘religion’’, but Native Americans did not consider their spirituality, ceremonies, and rituals as ‘‘religion,’’ in the way that Christians do.

Their faith and practices were essential part of their lives. The main rituals and celebrations were puberty, marriage, and death.

### 5.1.1 DEATH CEREMONIES

Native Americans celebrated death as the last part of life spent on Earth after which the new life started in the Spirit World. The journey of soul of the deceased could be long and thus afterlife rituals were very important and lasted for several days.

To make sure that this last journey will be safe, they washed dead body with natural yucca<sup>9</sup> suds and dress them into traditional clothes. The people from Navajo tribe believed that those who were living long life were good people and their soul deserves to be reborn. Although, if some member of tribe died of illness, suicide or violence, his “Chindi”<sup>10</sup> could cause trouble to his family. “Indians” used to tie the feathers around the forehead of the deceased and buried him with favourite possessions, traditional foods and special herbs. <sup>[13]</sup>

### 5.1.2 HEALING RITUALS

Healing rituals and ceremonies were often organized to bring harmony into their lives, their tribe, and their environment.

For Healing rituals in spiritual celebrations were used plants and herbs as remedies<sup>11</sup> to create a connection with spirits. The most common plants and herbs that were used in spiritual rituals were e.g. Sage, Bear Berry, Red Cedar, Sweet Grass, Tobacco, and many others.

There is a big difference between healing process in Native American Medicine and nowadays. Native American healing includes beliefs and practices that combine religion, spirituality, herbal medicine, and rituals, which were used for both medical and emotional conditions. From the Native American perspective, medicine was more about healing of the person than curing a disease. Traditional healers worked to make treat the “whole” individuals as they believed that most illnesses came from spiritual problems. <sup>[13]</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> Yucca - A plant of the agave family with stiff sword like leaves and spikes of white bell-shaped flowers that are dependent upon the yucca moth for fertilization, found esp. in warm regions of North America and Mexico (appendix D, picture 07)

<sup>10</sup> Chindi - the ghost that left behind after a person dies

<sup>11</sup> Remedy - medicine or therapy, that relieves pain, cures disease, or corrects a disorder.

Native American people considered for importance to clean and purify their bodies and thus they often used sweat lodges<sup>12</sup> for this purpose.<sup>[13]</sup> In these darkened and heated enclosures, a sick individual was treated by an herbal remedy and smoke or rub himself with sacred plants. Healing practices were also used to drive away angry spirits and rise the healing powers of others.

Sometimes healing rituals required whole communities, where participants were singing, dancing and painting their bodies. Moreover, they used use mind-altering substances to persuade the spirits to heal the sick person.<sup>[13]</sup>

### **5.1.3 GREEN CORN CEREMONIES (FESTIVALS)**

The green corn celebrations were mainly practiced by the peoples of the Eastern Woodlands and the Southeastern tribes including the Creek, Cherokee, Seminole, Yuchi, Iroquois, and others.

This ceremony was usually connected with the ripening of the corn crops in the late summer. Typical for this kind of festivals were dancing, feasting, fasting and it usually lasted for three days. However, the green corn ceremony was different in every tribe but the main idea of it was the same. The corn was not to be eaten until the Great Spirit has been given his proper thanks. During this event, tribal members were thanksgiving<sup>13</sup> for the corn, rain, sun, and a good harvest. People from some tribes also believed that they were made from corn by the Great Spirits. The Green Corn festivals were accompanied by ball games and tournaments. Before this big event “Indians” usually cleaned up their homes, burning waste and purified their bodies by drinking various emetics<sup>14</sup>. At the end of each day of the festival or ceremony, feast was held to celebrate the good harvest.<sup>[13]</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> Sweat lodge - a simple hole dug into the ground and covered with planks or tree trunks. Stones are typically heated and then water poured over them to create steam. In ceremonial usage, these ritual actions are accompanied by traditional prayers and songs. (appendix D, picture 06)

<sup>13</sup> Thanksgiving - The expression of gratitude, esp. to God

<sup>14</sup> Emetics - A medicine or other substance that causes vomiting

## 6 THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIVE AMERICANS

The Native Americans accepted the new innovations more than five thousand years ago. Hunters' way of life changed because they started to establish permanent villages. Many tribes started to use corn, sun, and water in religious ceremonies. This meant that those who had control of the corn surplus had also power and authority.

Some of the first sedentary societies of North America were created by groups known as the Mound Builders, believed to be the ancestors of the Creeks, Choctaws, and Natchez.<sup>[12]</sup> The Mound Builders formed earthworks into various shapes and sizes. In those times circles, squares, and octagons were the most common mound shapes and some of the patterns looked like hawks, panthers, or snakes. Many historians believe that the different shapes were religious signs or territorial markers for different tribes. Although, as years passed, the development of Native Americans changed their way of life.

Agriculture developed with new planting techniques that allowed them to take full advantage of the land as it took less time and effort. The Native Americans used the procedure called "three-sister" farming that allowed farmers to harvest three different crops from the same field. These crops became important products for a barter because farmers traded portions of their harvest to hunters for animal furs, bones, and meat.<sup>[14]</sup>

## 7 ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS

When the Europeans firstly sailed the America, the life of Native Americans completely changed. After the Europeans found out that the natives had the abundance of natural resources, they started to visit them more often. Trading started. Moreover, Europeans also wanted to trade with them beaver fur. Furthermore, the “Indians” became more interested in the equipments which the Europeans used. They wanted metal pots and copper kettles to replace the gourd bowls and clay pots they had always used. <sup>[13]</sup> They also wanted metal axe heads that would cut better than their stone ones. They also wanted glass beads, decorative jewellery, woollen blankets, and guns. They became more and more dependent on the European goods and thus trading was welcomed.

Furthermore, Natives' way of life dramatically changed after they had started to use guns. It allowed them to kill more and more animals for food and fur, which completely disrupted the natural balance. The beaver population was nearly wiped out by the fur trade in some areas.

Another area of a major influence of European was implication of diseases such as smallpox and cholera into the “Indians” lives. The Natives' immune system was not prepared to fight those new diseases. The traditional Native medicines did not work well against those diseases and some tribes were totally wiped out by the sicknesses.

Soon after European settled American continent, they started to force the Native Americans to change their way of life and to push them to move into more isolated areas. Moreover, “Indians” were forced to work for European settlers as a slaves and every protest were strongly cancelled. By the time Europeans were getting deeply into the backlands, they defeated some simple tribes in wherein they found gold treasures and very soon their territory was fully occupied by Europeans. <sup>[15]</sup>

## 8 CONCLUSION

This thesis is dealing with known information and facts about Native Americans also called as “Indians” in North America. We have summarized their way of life, that was tightly connected with spiritual world, their habits, ceremonies and culture as well as affection of Europeans on “Indians” lives.

Native Americans were peaceful people who lived closely around nature until the Europeans came and brought there lots of diseases that nearly wiped out Native Americans.

Most of Europeans think that discovery of America had only positive affects on development but very less people can see the other side. Europeans took almost everything from the “Indians” includes their territory and natural sources. In addition, Native Americans were forced to move into more isolated areas called reservations. It is ridiculous that either today American people still “destroy” the heritage of the “Indians” as they do not realize how it is important for our future generation. As the one old “Indian’s“ saying says: *“Take only what you need and leave the land as you found it”*.  
[16]

## 9 LIST OF REFERENCES:

- [1] <http://www.angelfire.com/ca/Indian/HowFlySavedRiver.html>
- [2] Ceram C.W., The First American: A Story of North American Archaeology, The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 70, No. 3 , July, 1972
- [3] Orser, C., The Father of Atlantis, Ignatius Donnelly, Created the Modern Myth and Molded Pseudo-Archaeology. Archaeology Today, 2001 <http://www.archaeologytoday.net/1100toc/011701-atlantis.shtml>
- [4] Haslip-Viera, G., B. Ortiz de Montellano, and W. Barbour., CA Forum on Anthropology in Public: Robbing Native American Cultures: Van Sertimas Afrocentricity and the Olmec. *Current Anthropology*. 38: 419-441. 1997
- [5] Perego Ugo Distinctive Paleo-Indian Migration Routes from Beringia Marked by Two Rare MtDNA Haplogroups. *Current Biology*, Online January 8; In Print January 13, 2009 [http://www.cell.com/current-biology/abstract/S0960-9822\(08\)01618-7](http://www.cell.com/current-biology/abstract/S0960-9822(08)01618-7)
- [6] Šolc V., Indiánské historie, *Československý spisovatel*, 1. vydání v ČR/SR: ISBN: 22-111-89, 1977
- [7] Hubinger V., Honzák F., Polišenský J., Národy celého světa, *Mladá fronta*, 1. vydání v ČR/SR: ISBN: 23-011-85, 1985
- [8] <http://www.history.com/topics/native-american-cultures>
- [9] <http://www.native-net.org/na/native-american-culture.html>
- [10] [http://www.nativevillage.org/Inspiration-ten\\_native\\_american\\_commandments.htm](http://www.nativevillage.org/Inspiration-ten_native_american_commandments.htm)
- [11] <http://www.english-online.at/people/native-americans/native-americans-introduction.htm>
- [12] <http://www.lideazeme.cz/clanek/samani-carodejove>
- [13] <http://www.native-net.org/na/native-american-culture.html>
- [14] <http://www.apstudynotes.org/us-history/topics/discovery-and-settlement-of-the-new-world/>
- [15] <http://www.studyzone.org/testprep/ss5/c/impactl.cfm>
- [16] Arapaho tribe - <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/na-proverbs2.html>

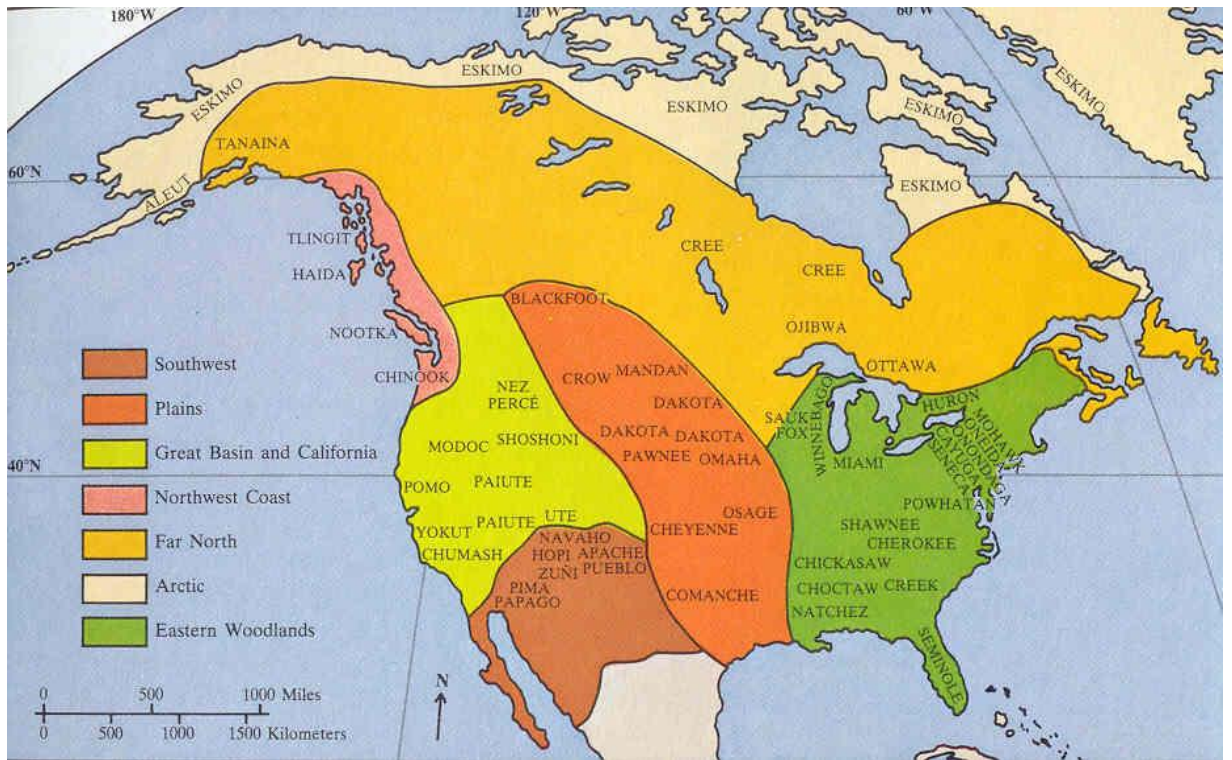


## 10 LIST OF APPENDIXES:

List of appendixes:

- Appendix A – <Native American Tribes map>  
[http://www.kingsacademy.com/mhodes/04\\_American-Government/03\\_Colonial-Foundations/03\\_Colonial-Foundations.htm](http://www.kingsacademy.com/mhodes/04_American-Government/03_Colonial-Foundations/03_Colonial-Foundations.htm)
- Appendix B – <Ancestors of the Arctic population>  
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/native-americans-traveled-north-american-continent-waves-journal-nature-dna-study-article-1.1113328>
- Appendix C – <Bering Strait>  
<http://www.networlddirectory.com/blogs/permalinks/11-2007/single-main-migration-across-bering-strait.html>
- Appendix D – <Short picture dictionary of words used in Native American history>
  - Picture 01 - <Tomahawk> <http://fineartamerica.com/featured/native-american-tomahawk-michael-vigliotti.html>
  - Picture 02 - <Lean-to> <http://fineartamerica.com/featured/native-american-tomahawk-michael-vigliotti.html>
  - Picture 03 - <Tepee>  
<http://www.old-picture.com/indians/Indian-Tepee.htm>
  - Picture 04 - <War bonnet>  
<http://www.thewhitters.com/natvam/warbonnet.html>
  - Picture 05 - <Wikiup>  
<http://jugalbandi.info/2008/01/americas-back-roads/>
  - Picture 06 - <Sweat lodge> <http://freehdw.com/wallpaper/sweat-lodge-on-indian-reservation-89468.html>
  - Picture 07 - <Yucca> <http://www.lavidalocavore.org/diary/5281/native-american-cooking-yucca-part-1>

# 10.1 APPENDIX A – <NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES MAPS>



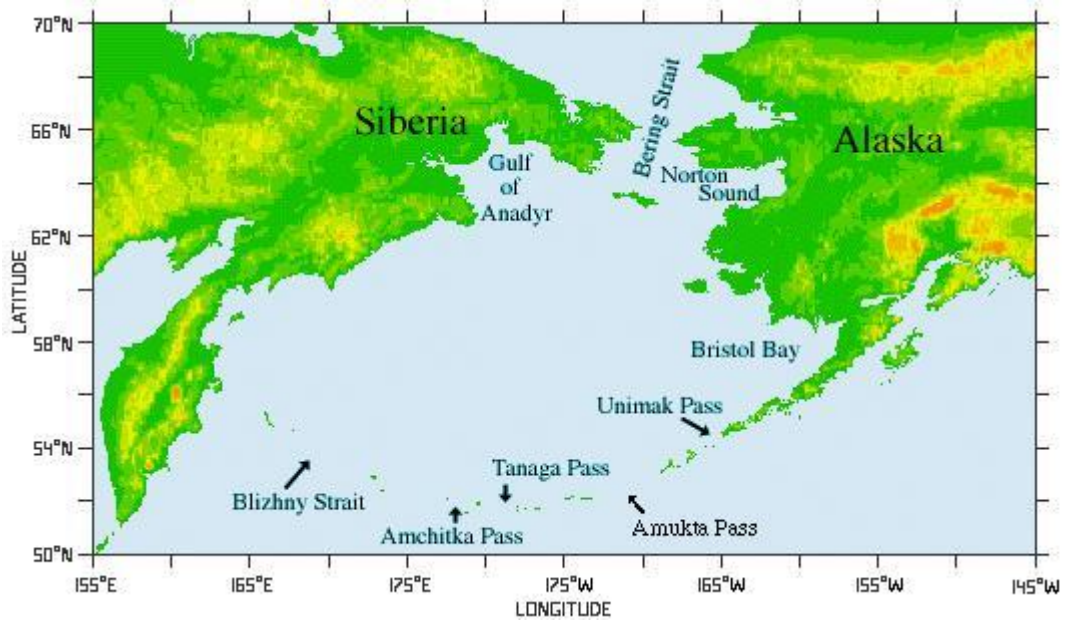
## 10.2 APPENDIX B – <ANCESTORS OF THE ARCTIC POPULATION>

< The two subsequent migrant groups are the ancestors of the Arctic populations that speak a Na-Dene language or Eskimo-Aleut languages.>



## 10.4 APPENDIX C – <BERING STRAIT>

< *Bering Strait. After the Last Glacial Maximum some 15,000 to 17,000 years ago, one group entered North America from Beringia following the ice-free Pacific coastline, while another traversed an open land corridor between two ice sheets to arrive directly into the region east of the Rocky Mountains. (Beringia is the landmass that connected northeast Siberia to Alaska during the last ice age.)*>



10.5 APPENDIX D – <SHORT PICTURE DICTIONARY OF WORDS USED IN NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY >



Tomahawk (picture 01)



Lean-to

Lean-to (picture 02)



Tepee (picture 03)



War bonnet (picture 04)



Wikiup (picture 05)



Sweat lodge (picture 06)



Yucca (picture 07)