

How did American Indians adapt to different environments in North America?

Introduction

In this lesson, you will learn about the first people to live in North America. You will find out where they came from and the places that they settled in.

The descendants of these people are the American Indians. Most American Indians tell stories that explain where their ancestors came from. These stories have been passed down for many years. This lesson includes an example of one of these stories.

Many scientists believe that these early people first moved from another region. They came from the continent of Asia to North and South America, traveling into many parts of the American continents over hundreds of years.

These early people settled in different locations around the Americas. You will read about the various places in which American Indians lived and see why they had different ways of life. By staying in the same regions for many years, tribes became very skilled at living off the land. The American Indian man in this image made his clothes and gear from things found around him.

There were different environments on this continent that the first Americans settled in. You will learn about four kinds of environments and why each environment presented different challenges to the American Indians and how tribes found ways to overcome these problems. As an example, you will take a close look at the Inuit (IN-oo-it) tribe in the ice fields of the Arctic. Why might this environment be challenging to live in?



