

AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURES – PROJECT HANDOUT

Introduction

American Indian cultures are much more complex and diverse than many people realize.



Aztec Calendar

Before the “Great Encounter” between American Indians and Europeans, somewhere between 10 million and 110 million American Indians lived in North America and South America. From the Iroquois in the Eastern United States to the Inca in Peru, American Indian cultures spanned great distances and had many different accomplishments.

Method

This project will require you to work in groups of 2-3 students to research a single American Indian culture and create a tri-fold poster that displays your research. We will be using the posters that you create as part of a two-day class activity at the end of the project – so make sure they are both informative and attractive.

You will be given class time to do research and plan your project. I will provide some basic research materials to help you with your work. However, you will need to visit the school library or the public library to find books that are specific to your American Indian culture. Also, you will need to find time outside of class to work on your group’s tri-fold poster.

Products

You and your group will be required to turn in the following assignments:

- **Tri-fold Poster (due Wednesday, October 3)** – Required sections are geography, government, economy, and history. Optional sections are housing, dress, food, social structure/roles, culture, technology, language, and religion.
- **Bibliography (due Wednesday, October 3)** – Attach to the tri-fold poster. Follow standard MLA or APA format. Must include a minimum of 3 books and 2 internet sites.
- **Individual Reflection Paper (due October 8)** – 1 page, typed, double-spaced. Answer the following questions: What did you do for your group’s project? What were your group’s greatest strengths? What were your group’s greatest weaknesses? What individual grade do you expect to receive for your work and why?



Mayan Temple