

Native American History

Week 3

Day 1

Miami

The Miami Indians originally inhabited the region South of Lake Michigan, but in the 1660s, they feared the Iroquois, so some of them moved to Mississippi, and some moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin. About 20 years later, the ones in Green Bay began to move back to Lake Michigan and Indiana.

They lived in villages with **palisades**, or fences surrounding the homes for protection. The palisades enveloped several elliptical houses for each family (sometimes for an extended family). The homes were wooden frames covered in tightly woven reed mats. Over the doorways and floors were bison skins. Each hut had a central hearth for light, heat, and fire for cooking, with a hole in the roof for smoke. In the center of the village sat the chief's house, which also served as a general meeting place.



Chief Little Turtle, date unknown. Photo is public domain from Wikimedia Commons.

During the American Revolution, the Miami sided with the English. **Chief Little Turtle**, or Michikinikwa, led his followers in several decisive victories against the Americans in the 1790s during what is called Little Turtle's War. In fact, Chief Little Turtle went down in history as leading the worst defeat of American colonists by Native Americans. It was 1791, and after some smaller skirmishes with Little Turtle, General Washington ordered an attack on him and his army. Little Turtle and his 1000 men defeated the colonial forces of 2000 from Fort Washington near the head of the Wabash River.

Define: palisades

Be sure to label map 2 with the Tribes we learn about this week!

1. Describe the homes of the Miami inside the palisades in at least one paragraph.
2. Who was Chief Little Turtle? What is he known for?

Read more about Chief Little Turtle here. When he finally signed the peace treaty with the United States, how did he change, and what things did he advocate?

<http://indigenouspeople.net/turtle.htm>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20160709052728/http://www.littleturtlegc.com/the-club/chief-little-turtle/>

Day 2

Pequot

The Pequot tribe and the Mohegan tribe were once one large group, until the Mohegan broke away and became their own tribe. The Pequot were a warlike tribe, and very organized, controlling the Connecticut area. They had a tribal council and grand sachem who ruled with great authority. The people lived in villages of longhouses and wigwams but were heavily fortified. Just like their neighbors, they raised beans, corn, tobacco, and squash. Because they lived on the coast, seafood and fish were their primary staple.

As the colonists began to move westward, the Pequot felt threatened. The colonists were taking the land that they needed for hunting and farming. The Pequot felt they were being treated unfairly in trade by the colonists. Many of

the new Americans considered them savages and, therefore, felt no qualms about killing the Indians or taking what they wanted.

The tension culminated in 1636 when a Pequot native murdered John Oldham during a trade where the Pequot felt he was being cheated. Governor John Endicott called in the militia, who allied themselves with some of the other Native Americans. In May of 1637, the colonists surrounded a Pequot village on the **Mystic River** during the night and set the village on fire. Any of the Pequot who tried to escape were shot. Somewhere close to 700 Pequot men, women, and children were killed. Sassacus, the Pequot chief, was captured and put to death. Any survivors found were sold into slavery. The tribe was nearly decimated.



**Image of the Pequot War from the Library of Congress.
Picture from Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.**

Read about what happened to the Pequot here.

<https://www.easternpequotribalnation.org/history>

1. Why were the Pequot threatened by the Colonists?
2. What eventually led to an attack on the Pequot village? Who ordered the attack?

3. Do you think (opinion) the attack on the Pequot and its tactics were justified? Why or why not?
4. According to the article, the initial response of the Pequot to the white men was peace and acceptance. What made that change?
5. What did the survivors of Mystic River do?
6. Describe the reservation where they live now, explaining how long they have had it.

Day 3 and 4

Powhatan

Read about this powerful tribe here and answer the questions. These are the Indians we think about because they met the British at Jamestown.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180404051707/https://www.nps.gov/jame/learn/historyculture/copy-of-the-powhatan-indian-world.htm>

Define: mamanatowick, yehakins

1. How large was the Powhatan tribal land?
2. How are the Powhatan matrilineal?
3. How many tribes made up the Powhatan nation?
4. Describe the village.
5. What is the role of women? Men?
6. Describe the marriage “proposal” and ceremony?
7. What was one of the greatest virtues taught to young people?
8. Name one of the cultural causes of the misunderstandings with the English.
9. What brought peace? What happened to Pocahontas?
10. What happened after the death of Pocahontas’ father? And for the next ten years?



The statue of Pocahontas, by William Ordway Partridge, was erected in Jamestown, Virginia in 1922. Picture from Wikimedia Commons and is public domain.

11. There were treaties made in 1646 and 1677 to pay tribute to the Virginia Governor. What is that tribute, and who still pays it?



***Oil portrait of Pocahontas in England, after 1616.
Picture is public domain from Wikimedia Commons.***

High school option: Describe the happenings with the tribe in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Have the Powhatan been treated fairly in your opinion?

Day 5

Shawnee

Read the following article about a well-known Native American tribe and answer the questions.

<https://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/indian-tribes/shawnee-tribe.htm>

1. The Shawnee originated in what part of the country?
2. Describe their living quarters.
3. Describe the attire of the Shawnee in warm climates.

4. Describe the attire of the Shawnee in cold climates.
5. What type of headwear was popular among the Shawnee?
6. What language did the Shawnee speak?
7. What were the names of the three most famous chiefs of the Shawnee?
8. Whose side did the Shawnee take during the French and Indian Wars?
9. Whose side did the Shawnee take during the American Revolutionary War?



Portrait drawing of Shawnee chief Tecumseh, based on an engraving in 1858 by Benson John Lossing. Picture is public domain from Wikimedia Commons.

High school option: Read about Tecumseh. Although Tecumseh was a great military leader, what transformed him into a religious leader as well? Do you think he served his people well? Explain both in a few paragraphs.

<http://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/tecumseh>