



Native Americans

also called American
Indians, Amerindians, aboriginal
Americans, Indians or First Nation
people

Native Americans in the popular imagination

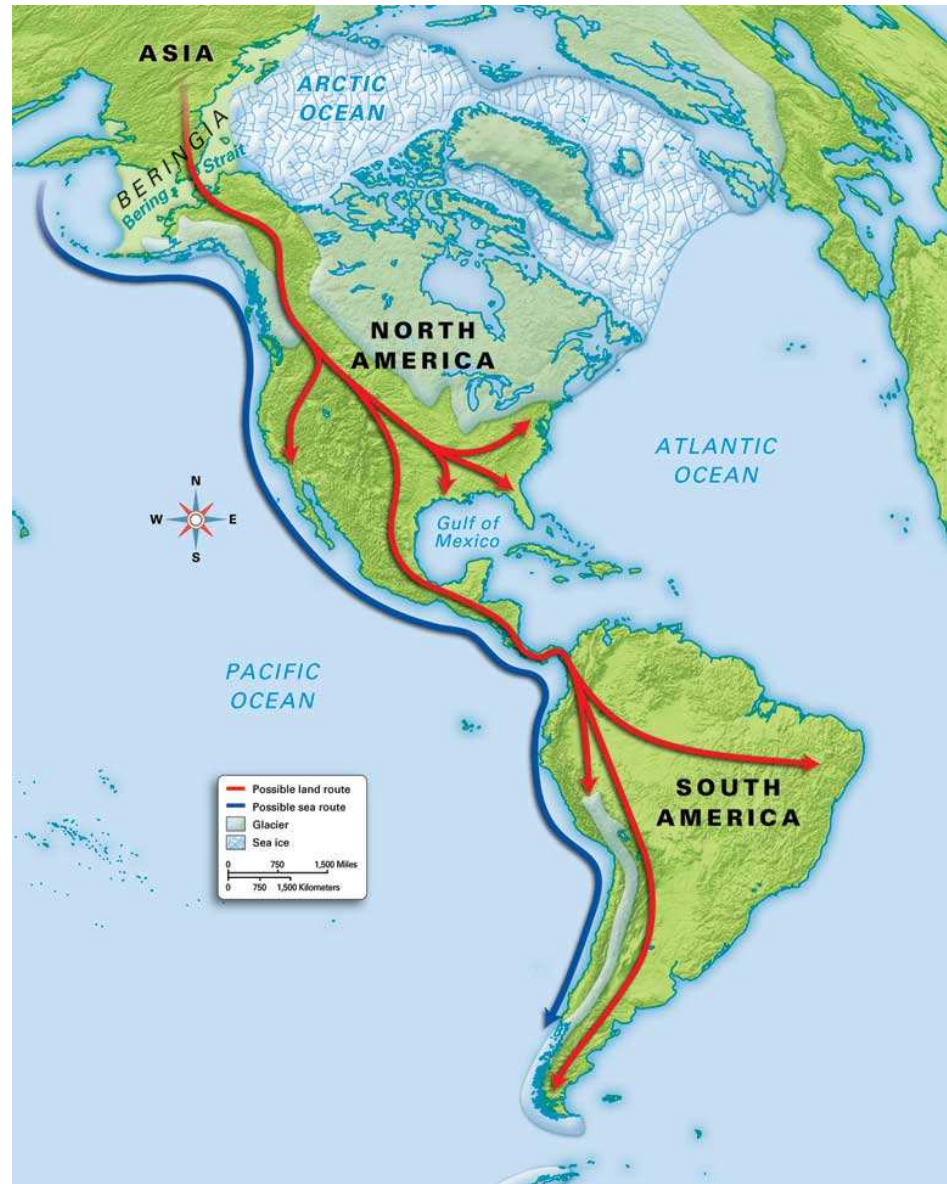
- Pocahontas (1995) – an animated feature film
- **Karl Friedrich May** (25 February 1842 – 30 March 1912) was a popular German writer, noted mainly for adventure novels set in the American Old West (best known for the characters of *Winnetou* and *Old Shatterhand*)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Western movies – Indians as a threat, the frontier myth
- The **Hollywood Indian** is a fictitious stock character image of Native Americans used in movies, especially in the Western genre. Since the majority of Westerns and other depictions of Native Americans in movies originates in Hollywood, the concept is called the "Hollywood Indian." The image of the Hollywood Indian does neither mirror Native American contemporary reality nor their historical past, but rather shows how producers, screenwriters, directors, and actors have chosen to represent Native Americans. The concept of the Hollywood Indian is closely connected to myths and images created about Native Americans and the Wild West.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Indian

The first Americans

- Who were they?
- Where did they come from?
- How did they live?





Early Societies of the Americas



Pre-contact /
Pre-Columbian
Culture Areas



Mesa Verde, Colorado



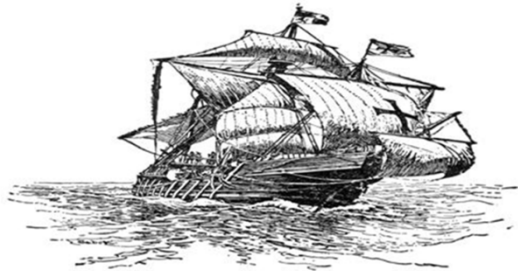
- **Mesa Verde National Park** is a U.S. National Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Montezuma County, Colorado. It is the largest archaeological preserve in the United States. The park was created in 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt to protect some of the best-preserved **cliff dwellings** in the world, or as he said, "preserve the works of man". It is the only cultural National Park set aside by the National Park System. It occupies 81.4 square miles (211 km²) and features numerous ruins of homes and villages built by the Ancestral Puebloan people, sometimes called the **Anasazi**. There are over four thousand archaeological sites and over six hundred cliff dwellings of the Pueblo people at the site.
- The Anasazi inhabited Mesa Verde between 600 to 1300, though there is evidence they left before the start of the fifteenth century. They were mainly subsistence farmers, growing crops on nearby mesas. Their primary crop was corn, the major part of their diet. Men were also hunters, which further increased their food supply. The women of the Anasazi are famous for their elegant basket weaving. Anasazi pottery is as famous as their baskets; their artifacts are highly prized. The Anasazi kept no written records.
- Mesa Verde is best known for cliff dwellings, which are structures built within caves and under outcroppings in cliffs — including Cliff Palace, thought to be the largest cliff dwelling in North America. The Spanish term *Mesa Verde* translates into English as "green table".
- The ancient people of Mesa Verde left the area in the late 1200s, possibly in response to a 24-year regional drought.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesa_Verde_National_Park



Who discovered America?

- AD 459 – a Buddhist monk: Hwei-Shin
- AD 551 – an Irish monk: Brendan the Bold
- AD 1000 – A Viking sailor:
Leif Ericson, „Lucky Leif”

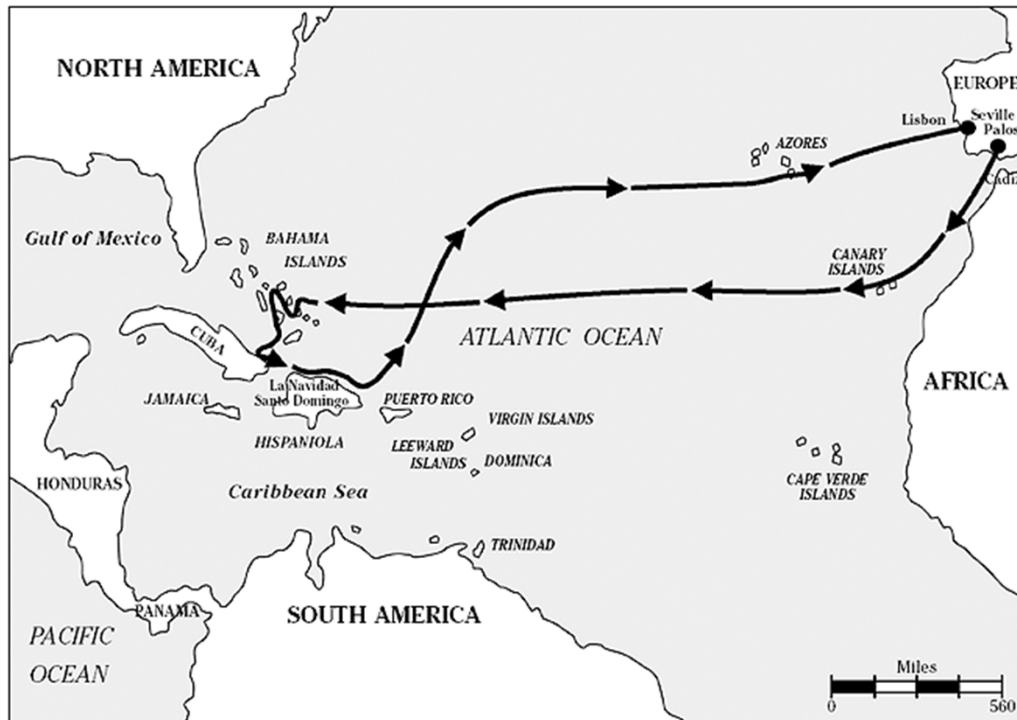


1492
The Year Native Americans
Found Columbus...
Lost At Sea.



Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

- 3 August 1492
- 3 ships: the Nina, the Pinta, the Santa Maria



The Columbian Exchange



The Columbian Exchange refers to a period of cultural and biological exchanges between the New and Old Worlds. Exchanges of plants, animals, diseases and technology transformed European and Native American ways of life. Beginning after Columbus' discovery in 1492 the exchange lasted throughout the years of expansion and discovery. The Columbian Exchange impacted the social and cultural makeup of both sides of the Atlantic. Advancements in agricultural production, evolution of warfare, increased mortality rates and education are a few examples of the effect of the Columbian Exchange on both Europeans and Native Americans.

<http://public.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site19/>

Thanksgiving Day

- **Thanksgiving Day**, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag Indians. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/590003/Thanksgiving-Day>



Pocahontas

- **Pocahontas**, (born c. 1596, near present-day Jamestown, Virginia, U.S.—died March 1617, England), Powhatan Indian woman who fostered peace between English colonists and Native Americans by befriending the settlers at the Jamestown Colony in Virginia and eventually marrying one of them.
- She was a daughter of Powhatan (as he was known to the English), chief of the Powhatan empire. Pocahontas was a young girl of age 10 or 11 when she first became acquainted with the colonists who settled in the Chesapeake Bay area in 1607.
- By the account of colonial leader John Smith, she interceded to save Smith's life in December of that year, after he had been taken prisoner by her father's men. Smith wrote that, when he was brought before Powhatan, Pocahontas halted Smith's execution by placing herself over him as he was about to have his head clubbed on a stone. Powhatan released Smith to return to Jamestown.



Pocahontas - part 2

- What is known is that Pocahontas became a frequent visitor to the settlement and a friend of Smith. Her playful nature made her a favourite, and her interest in the English proved valuable to them. She sometimes brought gifts of food from her father to relieve the hard-pressed settlers. She also saved the lives of Smith and other colonists in a trading party in January 1609 by warning them of an ambush.
- After Smith's return to England in late 1609, relations between the settlers and Powhatan deteriorated. The English informed Pocahontas that Smith had died. She did not return to the colony for the next four years. In the spring of 1613, however, Sir Samuel Argall took her prisoner, hoping to use her to secure the return of some English prisoners and stolen English weapons and tools.
- Pocahontas was taken from Jamestown to a secondary English settlement known as Henricus. Treated with courtesy during her captivity, Pocahontas was converted to Christianity and was baptized Rebecca. She accepted a proposal of marriage from **John Rolfe**, a distinguished settler; both the Virginia governor and Chief Powhatan agreed to the marriage, which took place in April 1614. Following the marriage, peace prevailed between the English and the Indians as long as Powhatan lived.

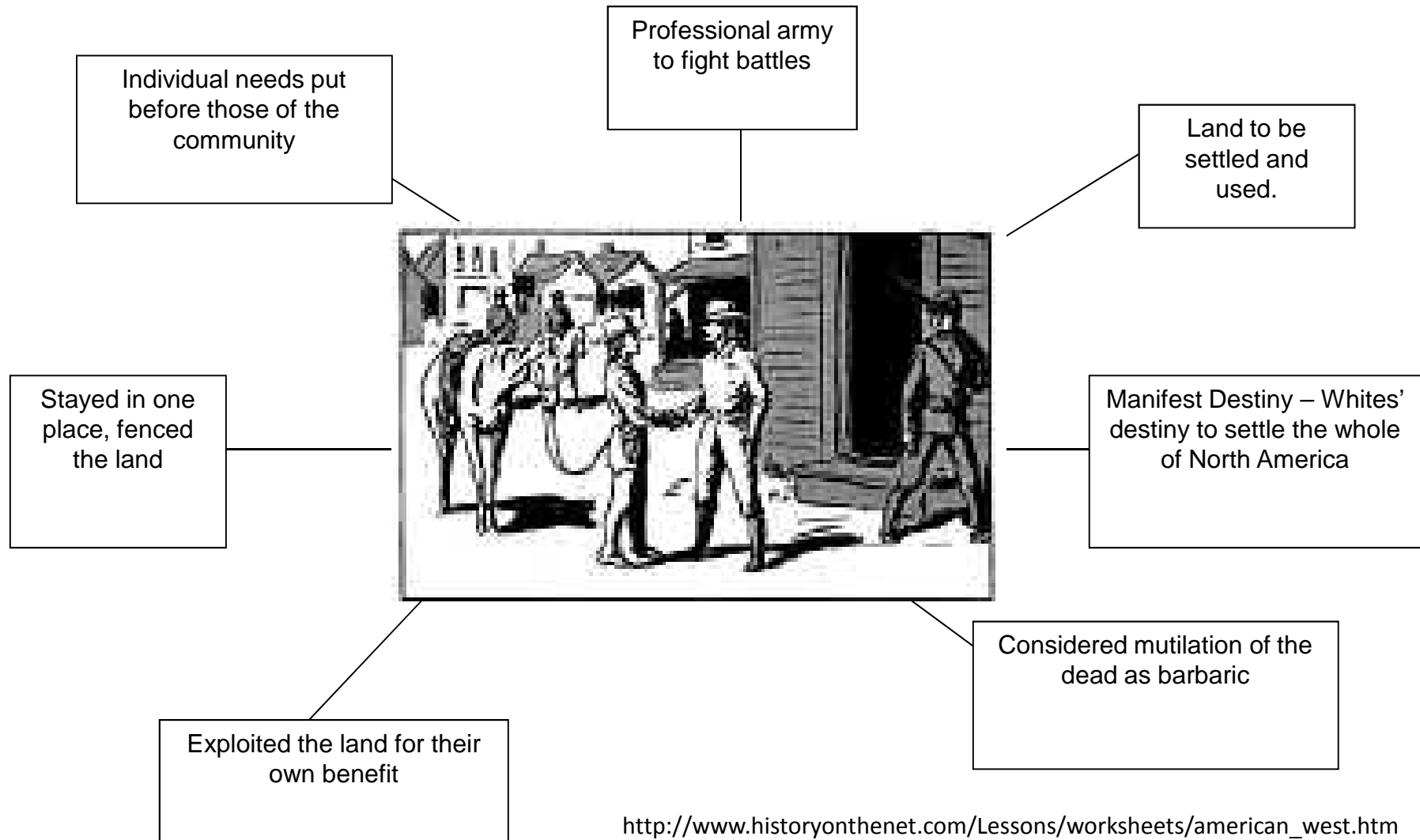
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/465632/Pocahontas>

Pocahontas – part 3

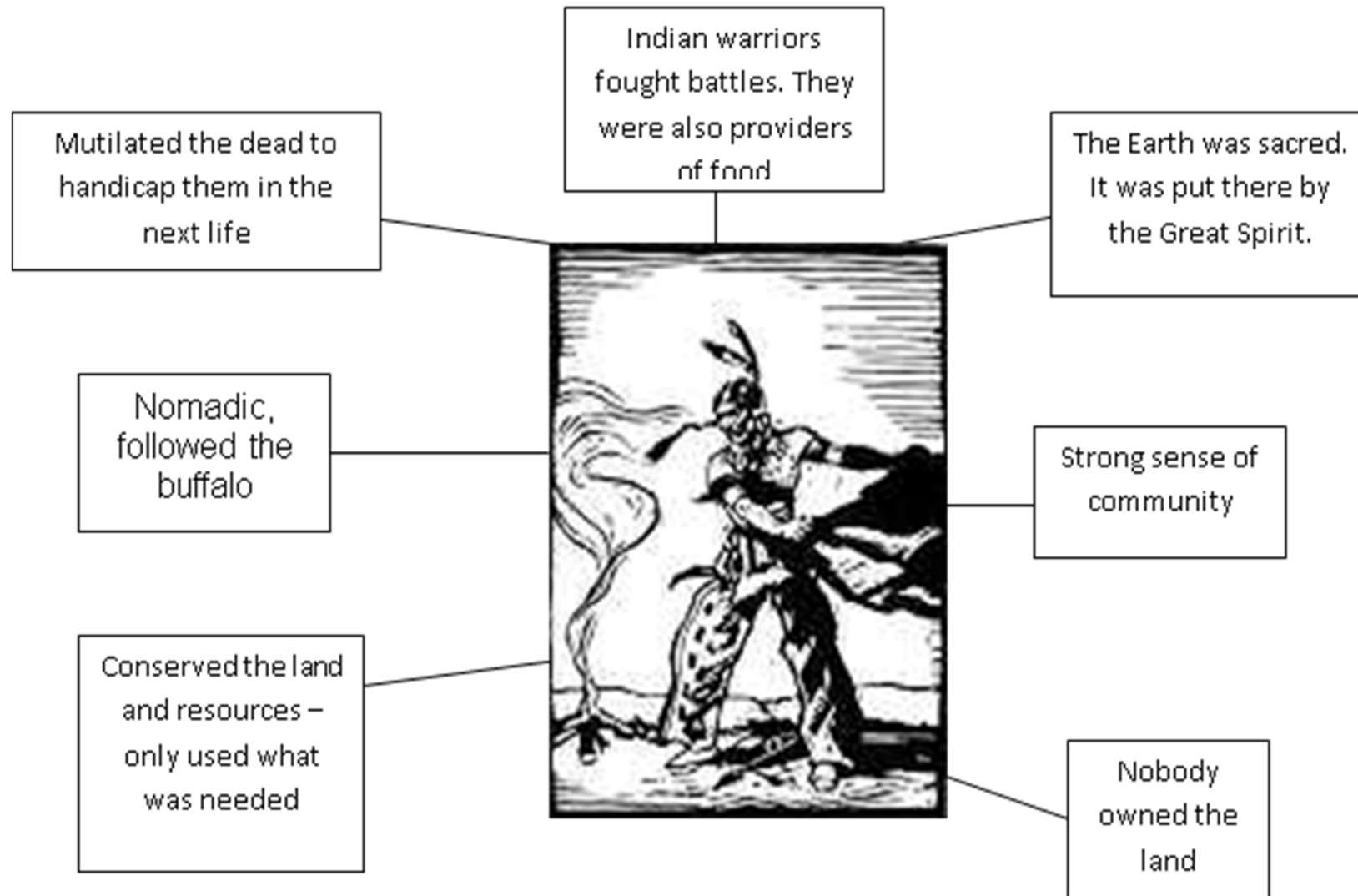
- In the spring of 1616, Pocahontas, her husband, their one-year-old son Thomas, and a group of other Native Americans, men and women, sailed with Governor Dale to England. There she was entertained at royal festivities. The Virginia Company apparently saw her visit as a device to publicize the colony and to win support from King James I and investors. While preparing to return to America, Pocahontas fell ill, probably with lung disease. Her illness took a turn for the worse and interrupted her return voyage before her ship left the River Thames. She died in the town of Gravesend at about age 21 and was buried there on March 21, 1617. Afterward her husband immediately returned to Virginia; her son remained in England until 1635, when he went to Virginia and became a successful tobacco planter.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/465632/Pocahontas>

Why did the different lifestyles of the Indians and white Americans lead to conflict?



Why did the different lifestyles of the Indians and white Americans lead to conflict?



Ways of seeing the Indians

- Part of the landscape
 - Children of the forest
 - Wild men
 - Noble savages (**nemes vadember**)
-
- treaties
 - dispossession of their land
 - Indian Removal Acts in the 19th century
 - reservations
 - massacres
 - 1924 – Indian Citizenship Act

Native Americans in the 21st century

- Most non-Native Americans admitted they rarely encountered Native Americans in their daily lives. While sympathetic toward Native Americans and expressing regret over the past, most people had only a vague understanding of the problems facing Native Americans today. For their part, Native Americans told researchers that they believed they continued to face **prejudice, mistreatment, and inequality** in the broader society.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States#Societal_discrimination_and_racism

Native Americans in the 21st century

- **Gambling** has become a leading industry. **Casinos** operated by many Native American governments in the United States are creating a stream of gambling revenue that some communities are beginning to use as leverage (**eszköz**) to build diversified economies.
- Although many Native American tribes have casinos, the impact of Native American gaming is widely debated. Some tribes feel that casinos and their proceeds destroy culture from the inside out. These tribes refuse to participate in the gambling industry.

Native Americans in the 21st century

Poverty

- Today, other than tribes successfully running casinos, many tribes struggle, as they are often located on reservations isolated from the main economic centers of the country. The estimated 2.1 million Native Americans are the most impoverished of all ethnic groups. According to the 2000 Census, an estimated 400,000 Native Americans reside on reservation land. While some tribes have had success with gaming, only 40% of the 562 federally recognized tribes operate casinos. According to a 2007 survey by the U.S. Small Business Administration, only 1% of Native Americans own and operate a business.

They are socially disadvantaged

- Native Americans rank at the bottom of nearly every social statistic: highest teen suicide rate of all minorities at 18.5 per 100,000, highest rate of teen pregnancy, highest high school drop-out rate at 54%, lowest per capita income, and unemployment rates between 50% to 90%.