Native American Cultural Regions Note Sheet

Southwest

Location:

Arizona, New Mexico, northern Mexico, southern Nevada, Utah, and Colorado

Food:

- -depended on corn to survive
- -squash and beans

Shelter:

-pueblos and cliff dwellings

Weapons/Tools:

N/A

Clothes:

Grew cotton - spun and wove it into clothing

Culture/Community:

Men: farmed, herded sheep

Women: took care of the house, crafted baskets and

pottery; hauled water

Boys joined the Kachina cult when they turned 6

Pacific Coast

Location:

Southern Alaska to Washington state; east Sierra Nevadas to Rocky Mountains

Food:

Salmon, hunt deer, gathered roots and berries

Shelter:

Homes made of lumber

Weapons/Tools:

- -bows and arrows
- nets

Clothes:

- Animal hides

Culture/Community:

- Totem poles, art, ceremonies

California

Location:

Southern Oregon to Baja California

Food:

Fish: salmon and shellfish Gathered: berries, pine nuts Hunted: deer, rabbits, duck

Shelter:

Cone-shaped homes made out of Redwood trees, poles, and antiers

Weapons/Tools:

- Bows and arrows
- Snare (trap)
- Nets
- baskets

Clothes:

- hot months: grass clothing
- cold months: animal hides

Culture/Community:

Great Plains

Location:

Missouri, Iowa, Kansas area

Food:

Farming by Missouri River Hunted buffalo

Shelter:

Tepees of buffalo hides

Weapons/Tools:

- utilized horseback
- ropes and shields made from buffalo fur/hides

Clothes:

Robes made from buffalo hides

<u>Culture/Community:</u>

Hunting and war guaranteed fame with community

Great Basin

Location:

East of California between Sierra Nevada Mountains and Rocky Mountains

Food:

- hunted ducks, small prey, snakes, grasshoppers

Shelter:

- homes made of willow poles and covered with brush and leaves

Weapons/Tools:

- Traps
- nets

Clothes:

Robes made out of rabbit hides

Culture/Community:

Men hunted

Women gathered

Eastern Woodlands

Location:

East of Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes

Food:

Combined hunting and fishing with farming

Shelter:

Longhouses: barrel-shaped roof covered in bark Wigwams: cone or dome-shaped homes made using bent poles covered with hides or bark

Weapons/Tools:

- Practiced slash-and-burn agriculture
- Used the wampum: beads made of white and purple shells that they arranged on strings and wove into belts. Wampums recorded important events and agreements.

Clothes:

Deer hide

Culture/Community:

Two Distinct Groups:

- 1. Algonquian:
- 2. Iroquios:

Plateau

Location:

North of Great Basin- Cascade Mountains to the west; Rocky Mountains to the east

Food:

Hunted and gathered: carrots, vegetables, deer, antelope

Shelter:

Homes partially underground, near rivers, made of wood

Weapons/Tools:

Digging sticks nets

Clothes:

Animal hides – dresses, leggings, shirts, decorated clothes with seed and shells

<u>Culture/Community:</u>

Wove baskets and hats

Southeast

Location:

Ohio Valley to the Gulf of Mexico and from Texas to the Atlantic Ocean.

Food:

- corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, and sunflowers
- squirrels, rabbits, turkeys, deer, alligators, turtles

Shelter:

- Clustered their houses around these mounds.
- Built their homes from strips of young trees woven into a rectangular frame and plastered with clay. Roofs were pointed and made of leaves.

Weapons/Tools:

- hoes made of stone, shell, or animal shoulder blades fastened to wooden handles
- blow guns
- bows and arrows

Clothes:

- simple, short deerskin skirts
- fashion rings, earrings, arm rings, and hairpins from stones, shells, feathers, pearls, bones, and clay

Culture/Community:

Built large mounds for rituals and temples