

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Studies

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Work hard. Be nice!

*Social Studies Please Do Now:*

**Fill in the blanks with the words in the box below. Be amazing!**

Bering Strait

Ice Age

Migration

Tribes

Ancestor

Cultures

People move for lots of different reasons today. Thousands of years ago, people moved to North America for different reasons. When people move to a new place it is called a \_\_\_\_\_. This migration happened during the \_\_\_\_\_ which was a period of time when most of the world was covered in ice. These people crossed over a narrow strip of land called the \_\_\_\_\_. Today, some Native Americans \_\_\_\_\_, which are groups that share the same culture and family today believe that their \_\_\_\_\_ were always here on the North American continent and that they did not come from another continent. Many \_\_\_\_\_ believe these legends today.

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## Early Native American Life Reading and Discussion

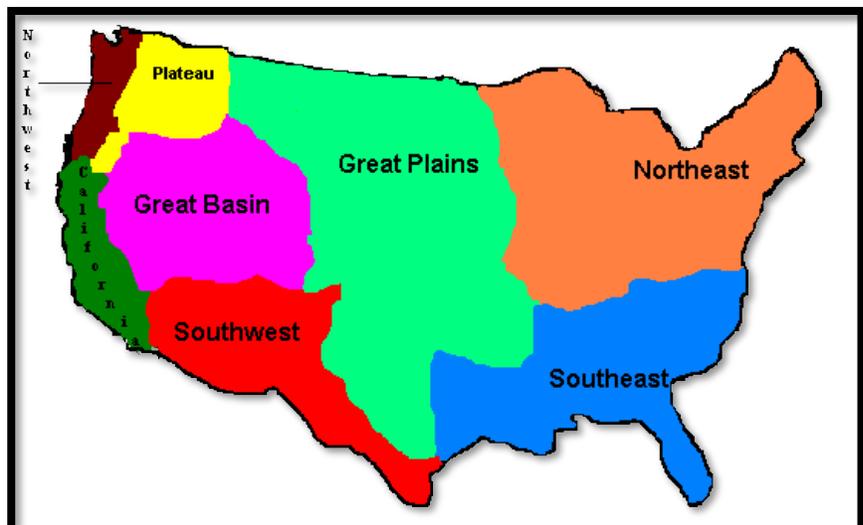
Thousands of years ago much of the earth was covered in ice. It was called the **Ice Age**. The people who lived during the ice age were called **nomads**. Nomads did not stay in one place to live; they moved with the game that they hunted. When the animals moved to North America to find food, so did the nomads. They used the animals they followed and hunted for food, shelter, and clothing. Nomads used animal skins for clothing and to make shelters for protection from bad weather.

When the **climate** got warmer, the ice began to melt. When the ice melted, water covered the Bering Strait, the land bridge that brought the nomads to North America from Asia. These were the first Native American people. They began to stretch across the **continents** of North and South America.

As the climate changed, so did the way that Native Americans lived. The animals they hunted were different. There weren't as many large animals, so they hunted game that were smaller. Fishing became a way of life for some tribes. They also began gathering and eating fruits and herbs that they found in the wild. Many tribes stopped their nomadic lifestyle and settled in permanent small homes made with natural materials from their surrounding **environment**. Eventually they began to learn how to farm the land.

The different groups they formed were called **tribes**. Tribes were located in different areas, had their own ways of life, and spoke different languages. Depending on their location, they hunted animals, lived on fish, and gathered plants from the forests. They developed different **traditions** and beliefs. One thing that most tribes had in common was respect for nature. When they hunted, they used every part of the animal. They gave thanks for everything they received from the earth and had ceremonies hoping to please the different gods they believed in.

A variety of groups developed as they became more settled. Distinct cultural regions could be identified. In the Northeast, for example, the Native Americans used the forests to get wood to build houses and tools. The Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest hunted the water for food. In the desert, the Native Americans grew corn and built adobe dwellings. There were many



different ways of life. However, the ties to the land remained a common thread among all the groups. In general, scientists refer to six major cultural areas: the Northwest Coastal Area, the Plains Area, the Plateau Area, the Eastern Woodlands Area, the Northern Area, and the Southwestern Area.

### **Reading Comprehension/Discussion Questions**

1. Why were Native Americans considered to be highly nomadic? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Where did the name Indians come from in reference to Native Americans? \_\_\_\_\_

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