

FIFTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES
Native American Cultural Region Report
Guidelines

OVERVIEW:

We know that Native American culture groups lived in different parts of the country and, therefore, developed different ways of life. You have been assigned one Native American cultural region. Your assignment is to write a research report that describes the way of life of this group.

RESOURCES:

To complete your assignment, you need FACTS about your cultural region. You can use the charts we created together in class, the handouts you received, and you can use your Social Studies textbook. You may also conduct research on your own, from library books or from the Internet.

Please remember that you must put all information IN YOUR OWN WORDS. You cannot copy word-for-word from another source. This is called *plagiarism*, and it will result in a failing grade.

SUGGESTED REPORT FORMAT:

(We will discuss this in depth in class.)

Paragraph #1 – Introduction

- State which cultural region you are writing about and give several general details about the region. *Remember: Your opening sentence should be *interesting*! Your goal is to grab your reader's attention so that he/she wants to keep reading.
- Describe the geographic features (like mountains, forests, oceans, deserts, rivers, lakes, weather, climate) of the area.
- Name some of the tribes that belonged to this cultural group.

Paragraph #2, #3, and #4 – Body of Report

- Each of these paragraphs should deal with one topic (food, clothing, shelter, transportation, tools, celebrations/traditions, etc). You do not need to cover all of these topics. Pick at least 3, and develop each into a paragraph.
- Be sure to write a topic sentence for each paragraph and include at least three good detail sentences in each paragraph.

Paragraph #5 – Conclusion

- This paragraph finishes the essay by restating the name of the Native American cultural region and making general comments about the lives and history of the people.
- Include at least two interesting facts.

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EXTRA CREDIT Diorama Project
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Your Native American research paper is a required assignment. The Diorama Project is an **optional** assignment for extra credit. Whether or not you choose to extend your experience with the material is up to you. Have fun with this!

What is a diorama?

A diorama is a three-dimensional look at a natural setting that shows one moment in time. For this project, you will use a shoebox or cardboard box to re-create the environment of one Native American cultural region.

Materials needed:

- shoebox or cardboard box
- index cards (You will write information related to the elements displayed in the diorama on these cards.)
- natural materials: dirt, sand, leaves, twigs, etc.
- writing supplies: crayons, markers, colored pencils
- possible art supplies: yarn, felt, foam, fabric, etc.

Steps:

1. Find a box for your project.
2. Make sure your name and the name of the cultural region are clearly displayed on the box.
3. Decorate the interior sides of the box to show what the geographic area looks like. For example, if the region is full of forests and near an ocean, the walls of the box should show trees and water. If the region is a desert area, the walls of the box should show the hot sun and lots of sand. On an index card, write the title "Geographic Features of the Area" at the top, list the specific geographic features of this area, and attach the index card to one of the walls.
4. What type of homes did the members of your tribe live in? Did they live in teepees? Longhouses? Dugouts? What were the homes made from? Include a model of the type of home used by Native Americans in this region. On an index card (or a part of an index card), write the title "Homes" and write the name of the type of housing, and place it near the model.
5. What type of food did your tribe eat? How did they get their food (hunters, gatherers, farmers)? Try to show this in your diorama. On an index card (or a part of an index card), write the title "Food" and list some of the types of food.
6. What were traditions, ceremonies, or special characteristics of this cultural group? If possible, choose one or more of these to show in your diorama. Explain on an index card.

Your diorama is due on: _____.