



# Nations of North America

**Mission:** Long before Europeans arrived, hundreds of Native nations lived across North America. Travel to six culture regions, enter each one, and discover how each nation adapted to its environment.

**Big question:** How did Native American nations adapt to the environments where they lived?

## ★ Warm-up: What would you build?

What would you make a home from in each place?

A forest ✓ **Wood, bark.**

A desert ✓ **Clay, mud bricks.**

### Key vocabulary

|                       |                                                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Culture region</b> | An area where groups share similar ways of life shaped by the environment. |
| <b>Adapt</b>          | Change to fit the environment.                                             |
| <b>Nation</b>         | A group of people with its own government, land, and culture.              |
| <b>Adobe</b>          | Sun-dried bricks of clay and straw.                                        |

## 1 Box 1

### Home: Eastern Woodlands

In the simulator: Enter the Eastern Woodlands and examine all 3 objects.

What did you notice?

---

## 2 Box 2

### Visit every region

In the simulator: Enter all 6 regions and collect at least 12 objects.

What did you notice?

---

## 3 Box 3

### Home and environment

Match each home to its region.

Sort: Wiiglaami / longhouse of bark • Tipi of bison hide • Adobe pueblo • Cedar plank house • Snow house (igloo)

| Woodlands                            | Plains                    | Southwest           | Northwest                | Arctic                    |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Wiiglaami / longhouse of bark</b> | <b>Tipi of bison hide</b> | <b>Adobe pueblo</b> | <b>Cedar plank house</b> | <b>Snow house (igloo)</b> |

## 4 Box 4

### Why move?

Why did many Lakota families use tipis instead of permanent houses?

☐ They followed the bison herds, so homes needed to move   ☐ They had no wood

☐ Tipis were warmer than houses

✓ **They followed the bison herds, so homes needed to move**

## Pattern

Which statement is best supported by ALL six regions?

- ☐ People used the natural resources around them for food and shelter    ☐ All Native nations lived the same way  
☐ Everyone farmed corn

✓ **People used the natural resources around them for food and shelter**

### 5 Box 5

#### Compare two nations

Compare how two nations adapted to different environments.

##### Nation 1

---

**Look for: Names a nation; Describes an adaptation; at least 14 words**

##### Nation 2

---

**Look for: Names a nation; at least 14 words**

##### Why different?

---

**Look for: Explains the environment; at least 12 words**

### 6 Box 6

#### Legend: past AND present Legend only

Many textbooks describe Native nations only in the past tense. Using a quote from the Woodlands, explain why it is important to say they still exist today.

---

---

**Look for: Addresses the present; an exact quote from the text; at least 20 words**



#### Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did Native American nations adapt to the environments where they lived?

**Look for: Native nations adapted to their environments: they built homes from local materials (bark, hides, adobe, cedar, snow) and got food from what the land offered (farming, bison, salmon, seals). Hundreds of nations had different cultures, and many are still thriving today.**

### # Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

| Level                                                                                            | Code starts with |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
|  Explorer     | <b>SQQ-E</b>     |
|  Investigator | <b>H1C-I</b>     |

 **Watch for these misconceptions**

- "All Native Americans lived the same way." Hundreds of nations had different languages, homes, and economies.
- "The land was empty when colonists arrived." Native nations had lived there for thousands of years.
- "All colonists came for religious freedom." Many came for land, money, or were forced (enslaved Africans).