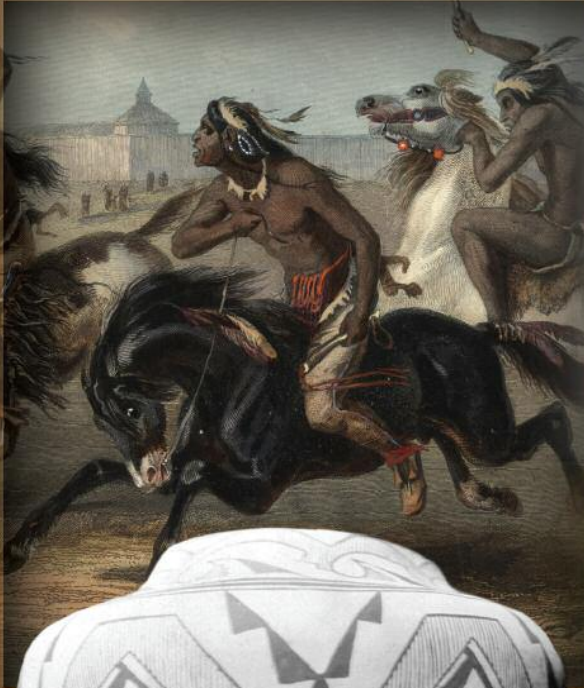


Rourke's Native American History & Culture
ENCYCLOPEDIA



Volume 1 - Abalone Shells to Bone Artifacts

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Volume 1

Abalone Shells to Bone Artifacts



By Sandy Sepehri

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Rourke


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On The Cover



Detail from a painting by Karl Bodmer, 1809-1893



Tepee in Alberta, Canada



Zuni girl photographed by Edward S. Curtis, 1903



Anasazi cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.

Project Consultant

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In 1492 Christopher Columbus sailed from Europe to North America and changed the world forever. Soon people from crowded European cities learned of the New World — a big, beautiful place where they could hunt, farm, and worship in freedom. For the millions of people already living there, however, this world was not new, it was home.

Their ancestors had been living on the American continents for thousands of years. They had their own rich civilizations, languages, and cultures. Columbus called them Indians, thinking he had reached India. Today, in the United States, they are called Native Americans and in Canada they are called First Peoples. They are further categorized by their tribal names, such as Cherokee, Mohawk, or Hopi.

Translated into English, many tribal names simply mean *The People*. As this name implies, they were the people of the

land, the only people. Then Europeans came to North America. Colonists settled the eastern coast of North America and later established the United States. Then pioneers arrived and moved to new areas, west of the colonies. The incoming Europeans brought a hunger for more land. They also brought diseases, for which the Native Americans had no immunity.

During a period of four hundred years after the arrival of Columbus, both the Native Americans and the settlers faced immense challenges. During this time, millions of Native Americans died from disease and war. Since the 1900s, however, their populations have grown and much of their culture has survived. This encyclopedia series presents significant people and events in the history of Native Americans from the arrival of the Europeans to present-day events.

18 Aquash, Anna Mac Pictou
Arctic culture area 19

1 **Aquash, Anna Mac Pictou** (1945-1976) was a Native American activist of the Micmac First Peoples. She was born in Indian Brook, Nova Scotia, Canada. She taught young Native Americans about their heritage and became involved with the American Indian Movement, a civil rights organization. Aquash was shot to death in 1975 on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and her death is still being investigated.

Essentially, their tribe divided into three groups: the Northern Arapaho, the Southern Arapaho, and the Gros Ventre of the Plains.

The Arapaho performed the Sun Dance, like the Cheyenne, and made beautiful beadwork. Unlike other Native Americans, the Arapaho used beadwork to tell stories rather than just for decoration.

Arctic Culture Area (Siberia not shown)

2 **Arapaho** were horse-riding buffalo hunters before the arrival of Europeans. They are believed to have moved from Minnesota to the Plains at about the same time as the Cheyenne. The Arapaho intermarried with the Cheyenne but kept their own language and customs.

Centuries of pots had been brewed on these Cheyenne men before they performed in a sun dance.

Arawak refers to the Native Americans who once lived in the West Indies. They include the Taino, from the Greater Antilles and the Bahamas; the Nopoué and Suppoyo, from Trinidad and the Igneric; and the Lokono, from the eastern coast of South America.

The Arawak were peaceful people who grew tropical foods, such as yucca. They travelled on large, slow boats to trade goods in Mesoamerica. It was the Arawak who were named Indians by Christopher Columbus when he mistakenly thought he had reached the Indies of Southeast Asia in 1492.

Archaic Period lasted from 8000 BCE to 1000 BCE. During this time, the last Ice Age ended and the woolly mammoth became extinct. The mammoth had been a main source of food for natives, which meant they had to hunt different animals, such as deer. Hunters began using new tools that had sharp points, such as the atlatl. At this time, native peoples also began farming and settling in one area. This led to the growth of different cultures.

Arctic culture area stretches more than 5,000 miles across the Arctic. It is surrounded by Russia, the United States, Canada, Greenland, Finland, and Sweden. This area is the native homeland of the Inuit, Yupik, and Aleut. Much of the land in this region is constantly frozen, and there are few plants.

See also: Aleut, Arctic peoples, and Inuit

3

WORLD TO KNOW

Ice Age (EISEN AGE) is period of time when ice sheets covered large areas of land.

Mesoamerica (meh-SO-oh-MEER-oh-keh) is region that stretched from southern Mexico to northern Central America and was occupied by Native American cultures before the Spanish arrived.

1. People are listed with their last name first.
2. The entries reference over 200 Native American tribes. They are listed by their most familiar name. A pronunciation chart is provided for many of the tribe names on page 64.
3. Cross-references direct you to additional information related to a topic.
4. “Words to Know” glossary is embedded in the text to help you pronounce and understand unfamiliar words.

4 abalone shells

Abalone shells are used by Native Americans to make jewelry. The abalone is a type of mollusk. The shell of the abalone is lined with a shiny, iridescent layer. To be made into jewelry, the shiny layer is broken, split, cut, and polished.



Native Americans used abalone shells to make simple beads or intricate carvings for their jewelry.

Abenaki (also known as Abnaki, Wabanaki, and Wapanahki meaning *people of the dawn* or *easterners*), a confederacy of many Algonquian speaking tribes, lived in what is now Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and sections of eastern Canada.



The flag of the St. Francis-Sokoki band of the Abenaki includes symbols such as the sun and water.

Their food included maize, also known as corn, beans, squash, deer, moose, muskrat, otter, bear, and fish. The Abenaki fertilized their maize with dead fish. They lived in wigwams and wore clothing made from animal hides. They used tree bark to make canoes and containers.



This watercolor shows an Abenaki couple in the 18th century.

The Abenaki were among the first Native Americans to meet Europeans. During the wars between the French and the English, who fought for control of North America, the Abenaki sided with the French. After the Abenaki confederacy was defeated by the English in 1725, many of the Abenaki moved to sections of Canada ruled by the French.

See also: Dummer's War and wigwam

Aboriginal peoples (also known as Native Americans, indigenous peoples, First Peoples, native peoples, First Nations, and Aborigines) are believed to be the original people to live in a particular location.

See also: American Indians

Abraham (1782–unknown) (also known as Sauanaffe Tustunnagee meaning *Suwannee warrior*) was a Black Seminole warrior. Black Seminoles were Africans who escaped slavery and found freedom in Florida, among the Seminole Nation.



Abraham was a Black Seminole warrior and part of the Seminole Nation from its beginning in Florida.

Abraham escaped slavery by joining the British army during the War of 1812. He helped build a fort in Florida that became a safe place for runaway slaves. This fort was attacked during the first

Seminole War, which was waged between the Seminoles and the United States Army from 1817 to 1818. Abraham fought with the Seminoles and became a member of the Seminole Nation. He married the widow of Chief Bowlegs and became the chief advisor to Chief Micanopy, of the Alachua Seminoles.

See also: Seminole and Seminole Wars

Acculturation refers to the changes that one culture experiences when it meets another culture. This change can happen naturally, as when Native Americans learned European ways of hunting and farming. One culture can also force acculturation on another. For example, beginning in the late 1800s, the U.S. government forced some Native American children to attend boarding schools. There, the children were taught English and job skills. They were not allowed to speak their native languages.

See also: Indian boarding schools

WORDS TO KNOW



confederacy (kun-FEH-der-ah-see): groups who work together toward a common goal

iridescent (EAR-ah-deh-sent): having changing rainbow colors, as seen on bubbles

mollusk (mall-UHSK): a soft-bodied invertebrate (an animal that has no backbone), such as a snail

6 Achomawi

Achomawi (also known as Pit River Indians) are Native Americans who lived in the river basin of the Pit River in north-central California. They spoke a Palaihnihan branch of the Hokan family of languages. They lived in bark lodges and partially underground homes in the winter. They ate fish, wildfowl, and vegetables. They were known to be expert basket weavers.



The Achomawi crafted baskets using grasses and willow which they colored with vegetable dyes.



Spanish settlers built this mission church in the Acoma Pueblo in the 1600s.

Acoma Pueblo is a 70-acre village in New Mexico. It was built on top of a mesa that is almost 400 feet high. Another name for this pueblo is Sky City. It is believed to have been built in the 1100s. Its high location and steep sides protected the Acoma people from raiders. The Acoma Pueblo is said to be the oldest continually inhabited community in the United States.

Today, less than 50 people live in Sky City. About 3,000 Acomans live in nearby villages. These people continue the traditions of their ancestors. Many of them are farmers. Some practice their traditional religion and others observe the Catholic religion, which was brought by Spanish settlers in the 1500s.

On special feast days, all the Acomans gather together on the ancient mesa for cultural celebrations.



Seeds were stored inside this Acoman seed pot. The pots were broken as needed.



WORDS TO KNOW

Latin alphabet (lah-TIN al-FAH-bet): the alphabet used by most people in North America and in many other places; it is also called the Roman alphabet

mesa (MAY-suh): a flat-topped hill with cliff-like sides; many mesas can be found in the southwestern United States

river basin (RIH-vur BAY-sin): the area of land that is drained by a certain river, as well as the creeks and streams that flow into that river

Adena culture refers to Native American societies that existed from 1000 B.C. to 100 B.C. The Adena lived in Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky, and parts of Pennsylvania and New York. They are known for the mounds of earth that they built. These mounds were 20 to 300 feet (6 to 91 meters) across and were used for burials.



Grave Creek Mound in Moundsville, West Virginia is the largest conical-type burial mound in the United States.

Adobe is the name for a kind of building material and for the buildings that are made with it. Native Americans of the Southwest built adobe homes and apartments. Adobe bricks are made of clay, water, straw, and burned twigs and grass. Once the bricks are shaped, they are dried in the sun. Adobe homes were often built together as apartments. Many families lived in each apartment. As families grew, rooms were added to the tops of the buildings. Several of these apartments were considered a village. This kind of village is called an adobe pueblo.



This adobe brick was dried and hardened in the sun.

Adz is a tool similar to an ax. Originally, the blade was made from stone, shell, bone, or copper. Later, Native Americans learned from Europeans to make the blades with iron. An adz was used to hollow out a tree log so it could be made into a canoe.

Ahtena (also known as Ahtna and Atnatuna meaning *Ice People*) is the name of a tribe of Native Americans who live in south-central Alaska. The Ahtena live in the basin of the Copper River. Their language is also called Ahtena, and it is written in the Latin alphabet.



8 Akimel O'odham

Akimel O'odham (also known as Pima, Akimel O'otam, and Akimel Au-Authm) is a tribe that lives in central and southern Arizona and in Sonora, Mexico. They speak the O'odham language. They got their name, meaning *River People*, because they lived in ranchería villages built along riverbanks. They became known for the canals that they built as part of an irrigation system for watering crops.



This is a photograph of a Pima woman taken in 1907.

Akwesasne Notes was an important source of information about Native people founded during the Indian civil rights movement. The name Akwesasne means *Land Where the Partridge Drums*. This refers to Mohawk Nation land in northern

New York and southern Canada. The original goal of *Akwesasne Notes* was to tell the experiences of the Mohawk community living on Akwesasne, where pollution became a problem. The journal now includes stories about all native peoples.

Alabama tribe lived in southern Alabama in the early 1700s. It was a member of the Creek Confederacy. The Alabama hunted, fished, and grew corn, beans, squash, and sunflowers. The men often wore scalp locks. During the 1800s, the tribe moved to Louisiana and Texas. Today, many of the Alabama share a Texas reservation with the Couthatta tribe.



The welcome sign at the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation is east of Livingston, Texas. The reservation is home to the Alabama and Koasati, also known as Couthatta Indians, which was formed after they were forced southward from present-day Alabama by the United States around the turn of the 17th century.



Alcatraz island is located in the middle of San Francisco Bay in California.

Alcatraz is a small island in California's San Francisco Bay. Alcatraz was first used by the United States as a military fort and later, as a prison. In 1969, hundreds of Native Americans took occupation of the island to protest the treaties broken by the U.S. government. After 19 months, Federal Marshals forced them off the island. However, their efforts improved U.S. policy toward Native Americans. Today, many people visit Alcatraz to learn about its history.

Aleut (also known as Unangan) originally lived in what is now Alaska's Aleutian Island chain. They wore waterproof clothing made from sealskin to protect them from rain. In 1867, their land became part of the United States. Today, the Aleut live in small communities within and near their original land.

See also: barabara

Alexie, Sherman (1966-) Alexie is an award-winning author, screenplay writer, and comedian. He is a Spokane-Coeur d'Alene Native American. He grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington. As a baby, Alexie needed surgery to drain water from his brain and was expected to suffer mentally. However, by the age of five, he was reading adult novels. Later, he became the first member of his tribe to earn a university degree.

Today, Alexie is married and has two sons. He has written many books, short stories, and poems about Native American experiences. He has earned many awards for his work, including *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, his first collection of short stories. His book called *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, won the 2007 National Book Award in the category of Young People's Literature.

WORDS TO KNOW



irrigation (ear-ah-GAY-shun): the use of man-made ditches, pipes, or streams to carry water to dry land

occupation (ah-cue-PAY-shun): the taking possession of and control over a place

ranchería (ran-CHEER-ee-ah): a village of separate homes, unlike the apartment-style pueblos

reservation (reh-ser-VAY-shun): land that is set aside for the use of Native Americans

scalp locks (SKALP LOCKS): sections of hair left at the top of the head after the rest of the hair has been shaved

IO Algonkin

Algonkin (also known as Algonquin) lived 5,000 years ago along the Ottawa River in Canada and parts of what is now Michigan. They hunted and fished and grew corn, beans, and squash. They waterproofed their canoes with tree resin and animal fat. They also made metal tools with copper mined from land in what is present-day Ontario, Canada.

In 1603, French explorer Samuel de Champlain and his group were the first Europeans to meet the Algonkins. The Algonkins began trading fur with the French and other Europeans. This led to their battle with the Iroquois, who also wished to trade fur. Eventually, the Iroquois, with the help of the Dutch and British, defeated the Algonkins and the French.

In the 1800s, the lumber industry moved into Algonkin lands, and some of the Algonkins went to live on reserves. Recently, however, Algonkins have protected some of their lands from government use, such as land in Ontario that was scheduled to become a garbage dump.



WORDS TO KNOW

reserves (REE-zervs): Native American reservations in Canada

resin (reh-ZIN): a clear, sticky material that oozes out of certain trees and plants

Algonquian is a term that refers to a wide variety of North American tribes that spoke a related group of languages.

FACT FILE

Language: The common original language of all Algonquian tribes is called Proto-Algonquian, which was spoken 3,000 years ago. From Proto-Algonquian came about 27 different languages.

Location: The Algonquian tribes are divided into three geographical groups: Central, Plains, and Eastern. These tribes once included hundreds of thousands of people, living from the east coast of the United States and Canada to the Rocky Mountains. Many lived in the New England area.



Areas in red show where Algonquian languages were spoken before the arrival of Europeans.

Housing: In warm weather, Algonquians lived in lightweight wigwams that they could take with them when they moved.



The Ojibwe built wigwams made of birch bark.

In cold weather, clans would live together in warmer longhouses. They kept their food and supplies in partly underground buildings.

See also: longhouse

Diet: Most tribes hunted wild game, fished, and farmed. Western tribes hunted buffalo, turkey, and rabbits. Southern tribes grew corn, beans, and squash. Near the Great Lakes, the tribes hunted moose, caribou, and other game and collected wild rice that grew in the marshlands. Northern tribes hunted elk and moose and gathered vegetables and nuts. In the spring, they netted fish from their canoes and fished in the ocean and streams with hooks and fishing lines. In the winter, they hunted whales, porpoises, walruses, and seals.

Customs: Community dances happened frequently. They came together to eat, dance, and settle arguments.



Algonquians placed dream catchers on their babies' cradleboards as decoration.

The Algonquian tribes include the: Abenaki, Algonkin (Algonquin), Arapaho, Attikamek, Blackfoot, Cheyenne, Cree, Gros Ventre, Illini, Kickapoo, Leni Lenape/Delaware, Lumbee (Crotan Indian), Mahican (including Mohican, Stockbridge Indian, and Wappinger), Maliseet, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Miami, Mi'kmaq/Micmac, Mohegan (including Pequot, Montauk, Niantic, and Shinnecock), Montagnais/Innu, Munsee, Nanticoke, Narragansett, Naskapi, Ojibwe/Chippewa, Ottawa, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Potawatomi, Powhatan, Shawnee, Wampanoag (including the Massachusetts, Natick, and Mashpee), Wiyot, and Yurok.