

The First Americans

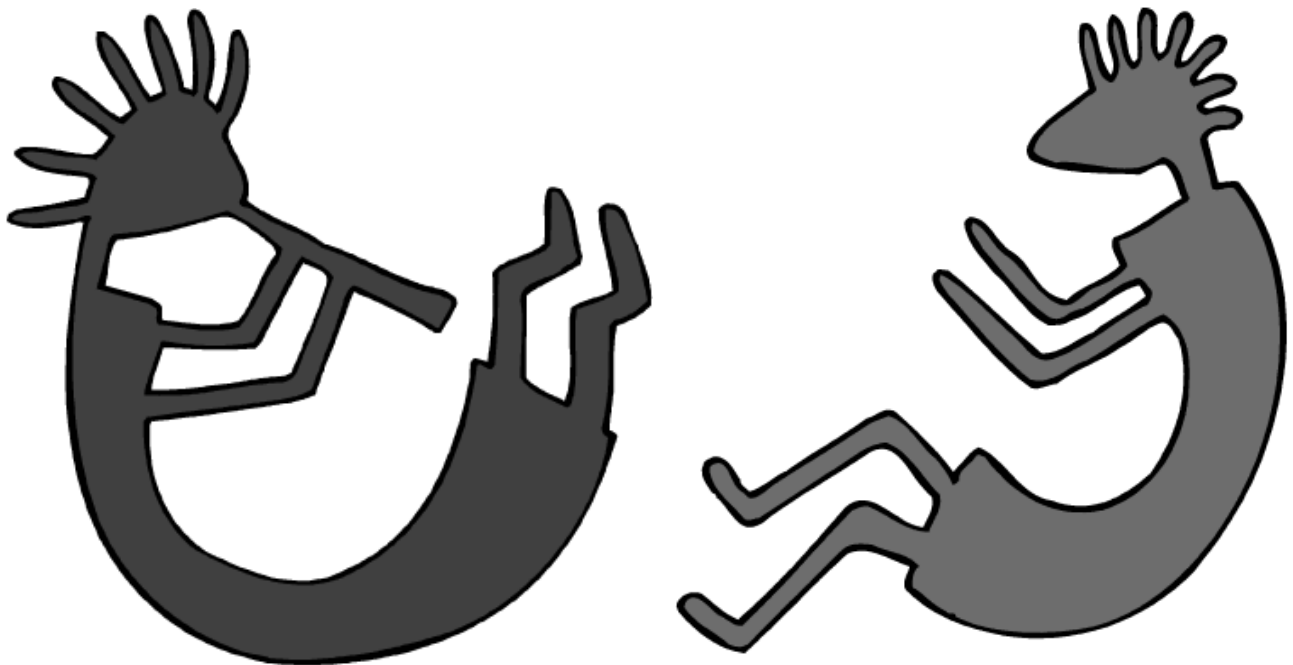
full text on page 155 (cd track 26)

Introduction ❖

The earliest group of people to settle in North America are sometimes called American Indians or Native Americans. They had been living in North (and South) America long before any Europeans arrived. They were, indeed, the first Americans. Here is a brief history of their conflicts with European settlers.

Vocabulary ❖

1. **archeologists** - people who study human life and civilizations
2. **scattered** - gone in all directions
3. **settle** - to move to an area and make a home
4. **harmony** - peaceful cooperation
5. **ownership** - belonging to a person or group
6. **cheat** - to do something dishonest for gain
7. **unwillingness** - refusal to accept an action
8. **reservation** - a land area set aside for native people to live on
9. **battles** - fights between enemy soldiers; struggles
10. **conflicts** - disagreements
11. **ended up** - came to
12. **mainstream** - the most popular way of thinking



Dictation ❖ *Listen and fill in the blanks. Correct and discuss with a partner.*

Archeologists believe Native Americans came from _____ 25,000 years ago. By the year _____, many different groups lived _____ of North America. Because Indians lived in scattered groups and _____ with each other, they developed _____ . They spoke _____ different languages, _____ different types _____, built different _____, and made _____ in different ways. Those who settled in the northern areas _____ . Those who settled in the _____ farmed. Despite their many differences, most Indians _____ that people should live in harmony _____. They believed that people should not _____ because the land, like the air, stars, and water, belonged _____. The European settlers believed in the ownership of _____. These two very different _____ were the basis of the many conflicts between the Indians and the settlers.

In the early years of discovery and exploration between _____ and the mid _____, relations with the Indians were, for the most part, _____. But as more and more settlers arrived, _____. Indian tribal leaders were _____ because settlers were crowding people off their land. When Indians "sold" land to the settlers, the Indians _____ they were only giving whites the right to use the land.

Many settlers _____ the Indian way of life and _____. But others cheated them and took their land. While Indians always fought _____, they were unable to stop the advance of thousands of settlers supported by the _____. Indians won some battles, but they always _____ losing their lands.

By _____, fighting had stopped. Finally, the government moved almost all the remaining Indians _____. Today, however, _____ of the Indians live on reservations. Those who do try to preserve their _____ and ways of life. But discrimination by non-Indians, an unwillingness by Indians to _____, and a basic _____ the federal government, have kept many Indians out of the _____ of _____ life.

Discussion ❖ *Refer to the dictation in order to answer these questions with a partner.*

1. Why are there so many different Native American languages and cultures?
2. What was the basic difference in beliefs about land between the settlers and the Indians?
3. Why were Native Americans pushed farther west and eventually onto reservations?
4. Where are most Native Americans living today?
5. Many casinos are now on Indian reservation land, owned by the Indians and not regulated by the federal government. What is your opinion about this?

Writing and discussion ❖



Look up one of the following Indian tribes on the Internet. Write a summary (or five interesting facts you learned) of the article and tell the class about it.

Tribes: Hopi, Cree, Navaho, Iroquois, Mohawk, Apache, Wampanoag, Oneida, Comanche, and Arapaho. (If you want to, include one that is not listed here.)

