

FOCUS QUESTION

How did the environments of the West affect the lives of Native Americans who lived there?

VOCABULARY

Pre-Columbian
totem pole
potlatch

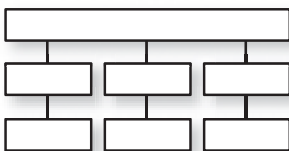
VOCABULARY STRATEGY

PREFIXES The prefix **Pre-** means "before." **Pre-Columbian** means "before Columbus." What does the word **prehistory** mean?

READING STRATEGY

Identify Main Idea and Details

Use a chart like this one to record the main idea and details of this lesson.



Native Americans of the West

Start with Your **CALIFORNIA STANDARDS**

5.1 Students describe the major Pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.

5.1.1 Describe how geography and climate influenced the way various nations lived and adjusted to the natural environment, including locations of villages, the distinct structures that they built, and how they obtained food, clothing, tools, and utensils.

Learn how the varied environments of the West affected the daily lives of Native Americans there. (Begins on page 77)

5.1.2 Describe their varied customs and folklore traditions.

Discover the customs of Native American groups such as the Tlingit, Makah, and Pomo and how these groups keep their traditions alive today. (Begins on page 77)

5.1.3 Explain their varied economies and systems of government.

Explore how the Native Americans of the West depended on the Pacific Ocean and the many waterways in the region. (Begins on page 78)



100 B.C.

◀ B.C.

A.D. ▶

A.D. 1300

A.D. 2000

100 B.C.
Inuit settle
the Arctic

circa 1700
Tlingit control a large
area of land in the
Pacific Northwest

One day soon Dee-yah will be chief. Today the young man must prove himself worthy. He stands at the head of the 35-foot-long canoe as it glides swiftly across the ocean. The paddles of his nine crewmen make no sound. Dee-yah shoulders his harpoon—16 feet of wood, tipped with a sharpened oyster shell. The great gray whale sleeps, unaware of its fate.



A Varied Land 5.1.1 5.1.2

The environments of the North American West include the extreme cold of the Arctic area in Alaska, the rainy forests of the Pacific Northwest, and the dry deserts of southern California. Native Americans settled in all of these areas, creating unique cultures.

The story of Native Americans is usually divided into two parts. The first part is called **Pre-Columbian** because it takes place before Columbus arrived in 1492. The second part is after Columbus and other Europeans arrived in North America.

Native Americans of Alaska

The Arctic is one of Earth's harshest environments. Yet the Inuit (IN oo it) have lived there for more than 2,000 years. They settled in what are today northern and northwestern Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. The Inuit also live in Siberia in Russia.

Arctic winters are dark and cold, while summers are sunny and mild. The Inuit

who settled in the Arctic had to find ways to live through the changing seasons. During the long winters, successful hunters invited storytellers to their homes to tell favorite stories. Their neighbors often joined them. Storytellers helped to school the children. As children listened, they learned about Inuit beliefs, their ancestors, and heroes that were important to their families.

Inuit men hunted and built homes. In the winter, they built houses that were partially underground and were made of soil and wood. When they traveled to hunt, men built igloo homes made of large snow blocks. In the warmer weather, they made tents from wooden poles and animal skins. When men returned from hunting, women cooked the meat and made warm clothing from the skin. Walrus, seals, fish, and whales provided materials for weapons, tools, food, and oil for lighting and cooking.

REVIEW How did the Inuit adapt to the changing seasons? *Main Idea and Details*

◀ A Makah whale hunt

