



Native American Writing Exercise

- **Task:** You are to write a mini essay on Native Americans.
- This sheet will guide you in writing your essay.
- You will need to refer back to the work we have done in class.
- Put the title “***Describe the beliefs and lifestyle of Native Americans.***”

Introduction – Copy the introduction into your books. Use the words to fill in the gaps.

The beliefs and lifestyle of Native Americans differed between_____. With over 300 tribes living across the United States in very different_____ there were important differences in terms of lifestyle. Native Americans spoke 2000 different _____. This essay will look at some of the similarities among Native Americans.

Languages

Tribes

Environments

Paragraph One

You can use these opening sentences as a guide. You should then add your own ideas.

Opening

In terms of the Indians lifestyle the buffalo was very important. The Indians relied on the buffalo for food. However, there were many other uses.

You need to add the examples for the buffalo. Look back at the work we did.

Paragraph Two

You can use these opening sentences as a guide. You should then add your own ideas.

Opening

The Indians believed they should live in harmony with nature. They believed that each tribe was guided by natural spirits. The Sioux Indians believed in the “Great Spirit” Wakan Tanka.

Things to Include

- Why did the Indians think they should live in harmony with nature?
- Describe the Sun Dance? , Why did Indians do the Sun Dance?
- What was the role of the medicine man in the tribe?

Paragraph Three

In this paragraph you need to write about the Tepee.

You can use these opening sentences as a guide. You should then add your own ideas.

Opening

Some Native Americans lived in Tepees. Tepees were good for the Indians nomadic lifestyle because they could be moved easily.

You now need to include further good points of the Tepee
and the bad points about the Tepee

Paragraph Four

In this paragraph you need to write about Indian marriage.

Things to Include

- How old was a Sioux Indian when they were likely to get married?
- What do you think of this?
- How would Sioux Indians get to meet their future wives and husbands?
 - Think **Blankets**
 - Walking past on a pathway
- What was **polygamy**? , Did the Indians view having **lots of wives** as a good idea?
- What do you think of polygamy?

Conclusion

The conclusion is where you finish your argument.

You need to answer the following.

What beliefs of the Native Americans do you like?

What parts of Native American life don't you like?

What do you believe in?