



THE INDIGINOUS PEOPLE OF NORTH AMERICA

When European explorers arrived in America in **1492** they found around 2 million **INDIGINOUS** people living there.

The Europeans mistakenly called them Indians, thinking they had landed in the Indies in the Far East of Asia. The explorer Christopher Columbus made this famous mistake. The term "Indians" stuck with the people who lived there despite not even coming from India!!!.

Imagine! This would be like calling us all welsh despite us living in England. How rude!!

These 'Indians' belonged to at least **300** different tribes and spoke over 2,000 different languages.

Famous examples of these **INDIGINOUS** tribes are

the Cheyenne
the Blackfoot
the Comanche
the Sioux

Each tribe spoke a separate language, and their houses, clothes and entertainment differed. However, they all followed a similar life based on hunting and farming.

These **INDIGINOUS** people were related to the peoples of north eastern Asia. It is thought that their ancestors crossed a land bridge linking Siberia to Alaska around **30,000 BC**. There was gradual movement south to the Great Plains of (the yet to be called) America.

In this unit you will come across terms to describe the **INDIGENOUS** people who lived in North America. Some books still call these people Indians but we should use more “politically correct” ways in which to describe the people we will be studying. Today we use the term **“Native Americans”**. This is the term you will be expected to use.

Tasks

1. In your own words explain the meaning of indigenous.
2. Give an example of something indigenous to these countries:
 - (a) England –
 - (b) China -
3. Copy and complete this starter activity table into your book.

Country	Indigenous People
England	English
China	
Ireland	
Portugal	
India	
North America Plains	
Ethiopia	
Iceland	

4. Which one in the table is the odd one out and explain why.
5. Copy and complete this paragraph into your book:

In _____ Christopher _____ “discovered” America by accident. He was actually trying to reach _____. He called the people that lived there _____. This was completely _____. This incident has meant that even today the _____ name has stuck. Imagine how these people feel. It would be like someone calling you a welsh person even if you do not come from _____. The proper term for the people we are going to study are the _____ peoples of _____ America or _____.

- NATIVE AMERICANS
- INDIANS
- INCORRECT
- INDIGENOUS
- OFFENSIVE
- NORTH
- 1492
- WALES
- INDIA

EXTENTION WORK: Where did the Native Americans ancestors come from? Think about where your family originate from.