# Quick Comparison of Native Americans – With Answers

***Tip:***

* If you are looking for a specific tribe, press Ctrl-F (for Find) and then enter the first letters of its name to search for it.
* The Traits column lists examples of their characteristics. In this class, you do not need to know all traits, but some.
* If you do not know some of the words in that column, click [here for Merriam-Webster Online](https://www.merriam-webster.com/) or copy this URL: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>
* To help you, some words are identified as **(Key word)**. Make sure you know those words.   
  If you cannot find a word or need help understanding it or any other word, please ask.

This covers:

* North America
* Middle America and South America

## North America

Native Americans consist of over 200 native groups. They speak **many** different languages.

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| **Region** | **Time** | **Major Examples** | **Traits** |
| Northwest | Pre-1500 and beyond | Pacific tribes **(Key word)** | Food abundant  Concentrated population  Totems  Trade and ocean-going  Hierarchical **(Key word)** tribesranging from slaves to free people to chiefs |
| Midwest, Great Plains | Pre-1500 and beyond | Cheyenne, Sioux, and other tribes | Nomadic, with a traditional term for this being hunter-gathers Buffalo hunters  Religious rituals around hunting |
| Mideast, Mississippi area | 950-1250 | Cahokia and other tribes | Mound builders  Trade network  Farming  Temples and government buildings  Human sacrifice |
| Southwest | Declining end of 13th century | Anasazi in the early period and the Pueblo Indians | Corn  Not hierarchical **(Key word)**  Not militaristic  Pueblos (**Key word** for a way to build)  Pueblo Indians After the Spanish come in 1598, they will be invaded and resist and are punished brutally by having a foot removed. In the 1680s, the Indians rebel in Popé’s Rebellion and keep the Spanish out for about 50 years. |
| Southeast, Atlantic coast called the Eastern Woodlands | Pre-1500 and beyond | Algonquians, Iroquois, and Muskogees | Fishing  Hunting  Farming  Warfare – including to gain slaves  Canoes  Villages and some moved with seasons  **3 major tribes** and also the 3 major languages in the region:   1. Algonquian – patriarchal **(Key word)** After the Europeans come, will become allies of the French 2. Iroquoian - matrilineal **(Key word)** andin a confederation **(Key word both with them and the initial American government )** After the Europeans come,will hold a balance of power with French and English by committing to neither, but later (toward the end of Unit 1), join with the British. 3. Muskogean - matrilineal |

## Middle America and South America

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| **Region** | **Time** | **Name** | **Traits** |
| Middle America | 300-900 AD | Mayan Empire **(Key word)** | Pyramids  Numerals  Calendar  Astronomy  Cities  Centralized government **(Key word)**/empire **(Key word)** |
| Middle America | 1300-1521 AD | Aztec Empire **(Key word)** | Human sacrifices  Militaristic  Have serfs (by conquering neighboring areas)  Cities/roads  Centralized government **(Key word)**/empire **(Key word)**  When the Spanish come, trying to tighten control of their empire |
| South America | 1000-1531 AD | Inca Empire **(Key word)** | 6 Million people  Cities/roads  Irrigation/terrace farming  Centralized government **(Key word)**/empire **(Key word)**  When the Spanish come, dealing with a civil war **(Key word)** |

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