

## Human Geography I of the United States and Canada

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## EXAM INFORMATION

- **Exam One is Thursday, March 1.**
- Bring a #2 pencil, eraser and a pen.
- Multiple choice short answer plus choice of essay topic.
- See Study Guide.
- Missed exam make- up is essay style.
- **The Extra Credit for Exam One is due at the start of the exam on March 1.**
- Be sure to provide examples from all 5 coordinates for max extra points.
- All other extra credit is by the end of the semester.

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## Human Geography

The **physical landscape** (natural environment) sets the stage for human use which results in the **cultural landscape**.

The cultural landscape is studied in **Human Geography** (once called "anthropogeography").

**Human Geography** includes all the **spatial, non-physical environment aspects of people living on the earth**.

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## Eight Principal Themes in the Human Geography of the U.S. and Canada

1. An ancient and ongoing **Native American legacy**.
2. An imprint from European **colonization**.
3. A long and ongoing history of **immigration**.
4. Significant **regional differences** in age, ethnicity, culture, politics and well-being.
5. **Industrialization**
6. **Urbanization** (and suburbanization)

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## Eight Principal Themes in the Human Geography of the U.S. and Canada

7. Significant **internal population shifts** over time as:

- rural to urban
- East to West
- Southeast to North (rural south to urban north)
- North to South ("Rust Belt" to "Sun Belt")
- Emptying of the US Great Plains
- Movement to the western provinces of Canada

8. Dealing with **natural hazards**.

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## Natural Hazards

**Natural hazards are natural processes that adversely affect people.**

**North America has the greatest variety of natural hazards of any continent.**

They span all realms of processes: geologic, atmospheric and oceanic.

**People need to deal to them**  
Be aware. Be prepared.  
React appropriately.



From Goode's World Atlas

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## PEOPLING of the US & CANADA



The first interaction with Europeans was for trade.

Native Americans – The first inhabitants were hunters and gatherers who later became sedentary agriculturalists.



## PEOPLING of the US & CANADA



Farming in the Virginia Colony.



People from other continents have never stopped coming to North America.



Ellis Is, NY reception center



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## Land Bridge from Asia

During the Ice Ages mean sea level was about 450 ft. lower than it is today.



Routes of the First Americans

- The Bering Sea was dry land.
- People from Asia were able to migrate on foot to North America.
- This occurred c.9000-20000 yrs ago.

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## Possible Routes into North America from Alaska

- Native peoples spread south from Alaska.
- With global warming, they followed the animal herds into what is now Canada.
- They reached the northernmost areas about 4,000-5,000 years ago.



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## Native American Cultural Areas

- The tribes developed unique cultural traits influenced by the elements of the natural habitat where they lived.
- Global warming allowed agriculture to thrive and their numbers to grow.
- By the time of the arrival of the Europeans, Native Americans had inhabited most of North America.

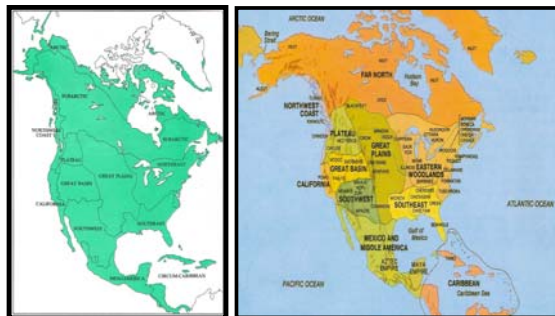
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## Native American Cultural Areas

- However, European arrival coincided with the mini ice age of the 1400s.
- Global cooling reduced agricultural production and animal habitat. Northern areas experienced food shortages.
- Some tribes became more aggressive in protecting their land from each other and seeking new food sources.
- The Europeans were viewed as a threat.

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## Native American Areas



## Native Groups of Alaska and Hawaii



Alaska was the first area settled (land bridge from Asia). Hawaii was the last area on Earth to be inhabited (ocean-going technology needed).

## The Native American Legacy

- Domesticated plants and animals
- Developed agricultural methods
- Built earthen works and ritual mounds
- Constructed palisade-ringed villages
- Constructed adobe apartment house-like structures
- Cut fields and trails through the forests
- Built ocean-going canoes
- Invented fish traps for use in lagoons and inlets
- Used and managed fire to clear the land and to drive game into hunting areas
- Developed systems of governance

## Legacy of European Interaction

- Tribal interaction differed with the:
  - Dutch (trading partners)
  - French (explorers/missionaries/traders)
  - English (settlers, empire-builders)
  - Spanish (treasure seekers/missionaries)
  - Russians (traders)
  - Americans after independence (eminent domain)
- European diseases ravaged the tribes (no immunity)
- Intermarriage (especially in the east) reduced tribal identities.

## Native Americans Today

- A **diverse contemporary population** numbering over 4 million.
- Numerous **semi-autonomous reservations** that vary greatly in size.
- Evidence of their **cultural expression** throughout the U.S. and Canada – designs, patterns, the arts.
- **Toponyms** (place names) throughout the continent
 

Canarsie	Massapequa	Michigan	Chicago	Huron
Nantucket	Saskatchewan	Winnipeg	Delaware	Yukon

## Spatial Expression of Culture



## Traditional Native American Dwellings

Style of the dwellings reflected both the local physical environment and activity of the people.



## Northeast: Iroquois



Tapping a maple tree for sap



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## Plains



Grass house on left. Sod house below.



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## Southwest



Mesa Verde NP cliff dwellings



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## Arctic vs. Everglades



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## Water Transportation



Polynesian ocean-going dugout canoe (above)

Eastern woodland birch bark canoe



Inuit seal-skin kayak



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## U.S. Indian Reservations

There are 310 Indian reservations in the U.S.  
About 550 tribes that are officially recognized by the U.S.  
Not all tribes have a reservation.

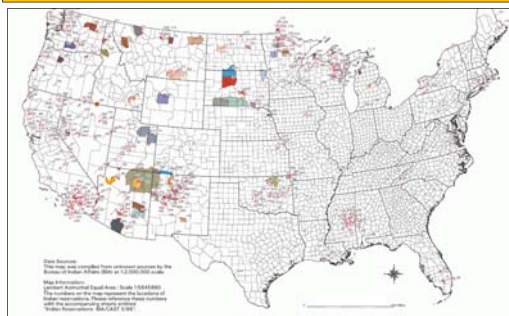
The reservations account for about 2.3% of the US and vary greatly in size.

Twelve are larger than the State of Rhode Island. The **Navajo Nation is the largest** - about the size of West Virginia.

"Tribal sovereignty" applies to reservations. Laws on tribal lands may differ from surrounding areas.

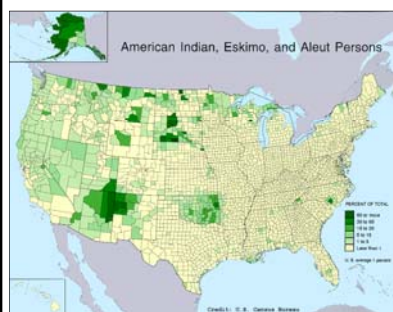
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## Indian Reservations in conterminous U.S.



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## U.S. Concentrations of Native Americans



Name	2010 US Census Population
Navajo	308,013
Cherokee	285,476
Sioux	131,048
Chippewa	115,859
Choctaw	88,913
Apache	64,869
Pueblo	59,337
Iroquois	48,365
Creek	44,085
Blackfeet	23,583

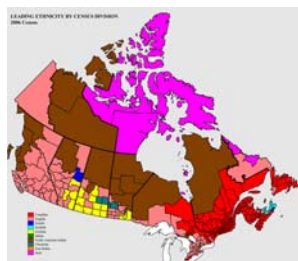
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## Canada's First Nations

- The **FIRST NATIONS** consist of around 630 tribes.
- Relations with the Canadian government have been generally good.
- Many live in **Indian Reserves** on land given them by Canada.
- In 1999 Canada created **NUNAVUT**, an Inuit governed territory, by dividing the Northwest Territories in two.

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## Canadian Concentrations of Native Americans



- The 2006 Canadian census counted over 1.2 million aboriginal people.
- Inuit groups accounted for about 500,000 people.
- Native American Indians totaled about 700,000 people.

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