

Human Geography I of the United States and Canada

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EXAM INFORMATION

❖ Exam One is Tuesday, March 5.

- 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 all essay format .

➤ The Extra Credit for Exam One is due at the start of the exam on March 5.

- ✓ Remember 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 environment** (natural landscape) sets the stage for human use which results in the **cultural landscape**.

The cultural landscape is the focus of **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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Principal Themes in the Human Geography of the U.S. and Canada

1. An ancient and ongoing **Native American legacy**.
2. An human imprint from European **colonization**.
3. A long and ongoing history of **immigration**.
4. Significant **regional differences** in age, ethnicity, culture, religion, politics and well-being of its population.
5. **Industrialization** as an historic concentrator of people.
6. **Urbanization** (and suburbanization) of the population has it modernizes and focuses less on the land.

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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**, both the natural processes and the impact from human actions.

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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.

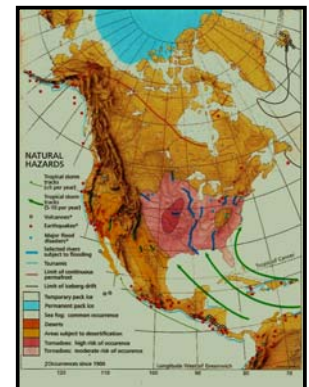
They span all the realms:
geologic, atmospheric and
oceanic processes.

People need to deal to them.

Be aware.

Be prepared.

React appropriately.

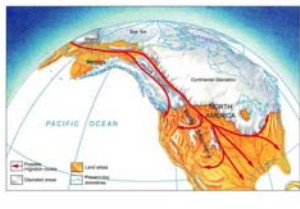


From Goode's World Atlas

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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 Asia

- 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 European explorers in the 1500s, Native Americans had a presence in 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



Physiographic regions



Major tribes within the regions

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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).

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Native Americans of the US & CANADA

Native Americans

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



Their first interaction with Europeans was for trade.



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

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Legacy of European Interaction

- Tribal interaction varied with the goals of the new arrivals
 - ✓ 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**.

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PEOPLING of the US & CANADA

People from other continents have never stopped coming to North America. Now worldwide in scope.



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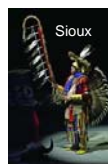
Native Americans Today

- 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

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Spatial Expression of Culture



Great Serpent Mound, Ohio, a pre-historic earthwork ↓



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Traditional Native American Dwellings

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

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Northeast: Iroquois

Tapping a maple tree for sap

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Plains

Grass house above.
Sod house below.
Tepees (left) are "traveling" houses.

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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. government. Not all tribes have a reservation.

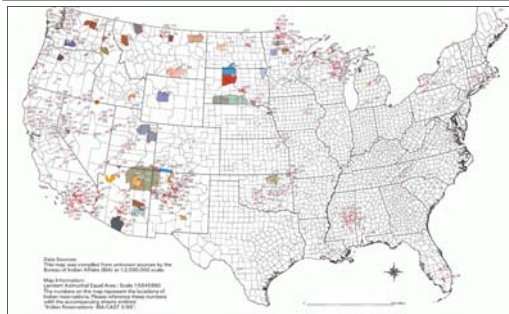
The reservation land accounts for about 2.3% of the US and vary greatly in size.

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.

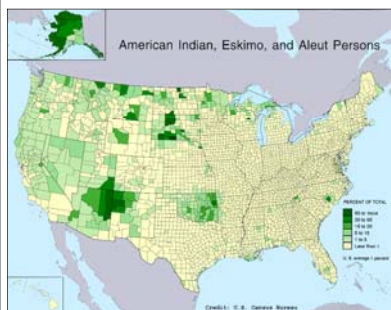
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Indian Reservations in conterminous U.S.



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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

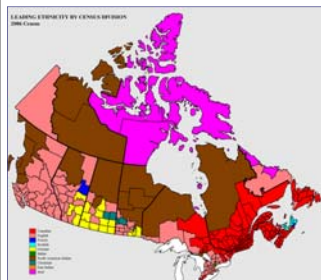
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Canada's First Nations

- 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 into two areas.

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Canadian Concentrations of Native Americans



- The 2006 Canadian census counted over 1.2 million native people.
- **Inuit groups** accounted for c.500,000 people.
- Native American **Indian tribes** totaled c.700,000 people.

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