

Human Geography I of the United States and Canada

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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**.

Human Geography includes all the **spatial, non-physical environment aspects of people living on the earth, including the visible imprint** (e.g., landscape).

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8 Principal Themes in US&C Human Geography and Landscape Development

1. A long and ongoing **Native American legacy** (includes the peoples lumped under the terms "Indian" and "Eskimo").
2. A human imprint from **European colonization**.
3. A long and ongoing history of **immigration and influence/contributions from immigrant groups**.
4. Significant **regional differences** in age, ethnicity, culture, religion, politics and well-being of its population with resultant associated visual landscapes.
5. **Industrialization** as a concentrator of people.
6. **Urbanization** (and suburbanization) of the population (as people "modernize" they focus less on the land) **and its spread** into rural areas creating new landscapes.

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

7. Significant **internal population shifts** over time that have had an affect on the landscape as:
 - Rural to Urban
 - East to West
 - 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

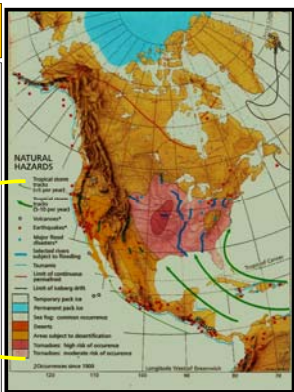
Natural hazards are natural processes that adversely affect people.

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

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

People need to deal to them.

Be aware.
Be prepared.
React appropriately.



From Goode's World Atlas
Copy available from Handouts section of Homepage

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Natural Hazard "Postcard"




Southern California cliff erosion due to wave erosion by winter storms.

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Dry Western States

U.S. Drought Monitor
February 9, 2016
(Revised Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016)
10017 1.0, 0.5, D0

U.S. Drought Monitor
February 14, 2017
(Revised Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017)
10017 1.0, 0.5, D0

Estimated that 95% of California was in drought during 2015; less in 2016; broken in 2017.

DROUGHT MONITOR WEBSITE: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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60 Years of Drought

The drought landscape varies over the years by region.

- Green areas become brown.
- Water levels drop in lakes, rivers and aquifers.
- Without irrigation agricultural land turns into a dust bowl.
- Forest and grassland fires become more frequent.
- Water- and snow-based recreation industries suffer.

Drought's Footprint
The number of counties in the United States that are in drought, as of February 14, 2017. The number of counties in drought is shown in red. The number of counties in moderate drought is shown in orange. The number of counties in severe drought is shown in yellow. The number of counties in extreme drought is shown in light green. The number of counties in exceptional drought is shown in dark green.

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Peopling of North America: Land Bridge from Asia

During the last Ice Age mean sea level was c.450 ft. lower than it is today. The continental shelf under the Bering Sea was exposed dry land (**Beringia**).

- Oral histories and dated artifacts indicate people from Asia migrated to N. America c.11,000 - 40,000 years ago.
- Native peoples then moved south from Alaska through ice-free mountain corridors into present-day coterminous USA.

Read electronic handout on Homepage from the "Introduction" to the *Atlas of Indian Nations* (National Geographic Society, 2014).

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Settlement Scenario

- With global warming, people followed the animal herds into what is now Canada.
- Tribes interacted with the physical environment and developed unique cultural traits influenced by the habitat where they lived.
- Reached the northernmost areas 4,000-5,000 yrs ago (BCE).
- Global warming = increased food supplies = pop. growth.

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 Areas

Physiographic regions

Major tribes within the regions.
Human response to the physical elements gives each region a unique cultural appearance.

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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 and Global Cooling

- **Global cooling in the 1400s** ("Mini Ice Age") reduced agricultural production and animal habitat.
- **Northern areas experienced food shortages.**
- **Some northeastern tribes became more aggressive** in protecting their land from each other and seeking new food sources.
- **The coincidental arrival of Europeans was viewed as a threat.**

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The Native American Legacy on the Landscape

- **Domesticated** plants and animals.
- **Developed** agricultural methods.
- **Built** earthen works and ritual mounds.
- **Constructed** palisade-ringed villages.
- **Engineered** adobe apartment house-like structures.
- **Altered** landscapes by cutting down trees in forests for fields and trails.
- **Devised** sturdy ocean-going canoes.
- **Invented** fish traps for use in lagoons and tidal inlets.
- **Used and managed** fire to clear the land and to drive game into hunting areas.
- **Set up** systems of governance; claimed and protected land.


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Native Americans



First inhabitants were hunters and gatherers who became sedentary agriculturalists.









Collecting food




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Native American-European Interaction






Trading for furs.



First interactions were for trade.



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Legacy of European Interaction

Tribal interaction varied with the goals of the new arrivals.

- ✓ **Dutch** (trading partners)
- ✓ **French** (explorers/traders/missionaries)
- ✓ **English** (settlers, empire-builders)
- ✓ **Spanish** (treasure seekers/missionaries)
- ✓ **Russians** (traders)
- ✓ **Americans** (espoused eminent domain)

However, interaction had its negative side:

- **European diseases ravaged the tribes** (no natural immunity)
- **Intermarriage reduced tribal identities** (especially in the east).
- European/American **dominance** changed the native cultural landscape.
- European/American **greed** and **goal to control** area pushed Native Americans out of their homelands.

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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

See Chapter 2 in Conzin

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Visual Expression of Culture

Sioux

ETOWAH INDIAN MOUNDS
STATE HISTORIC SITE
Georgia

Inuit

Taos Pueblo, NM

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

Hopi

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Traditional Native American Dwellings

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

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Northeast: Iroquois

Tapping a maple tree for sap

Three Sisters: beans, corn and squash.

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Plains

Grass house above.
Sod house below.
Teepees (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



About **550 tribes** that are recognized by the U.S. government. There are **310 reservations**.

All reservation land accounts for about 2.3% of the US and varies greatly in size.

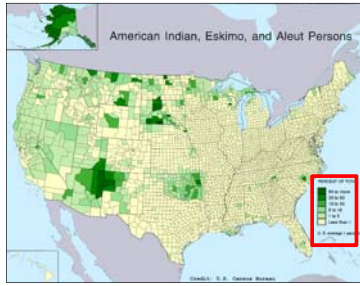
- Twelve are larger than the State of Rhode Island.
- The **Navajo Nation is the largest** - the size of West Virginia.

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

Many reservations have a unique appearance that is a blend of native culture, modernization and poverty.

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U.S. Concentrations of Native Americans



American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut Persons

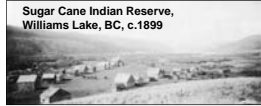
Name	2010 US Census Population
Navajo	308,013
Cherokee	285,476
Sioux	131,048
Chippewa	115,859
Choctaw	88,913
Apache	64,869
Pueblo	59,337
Iroquois	48,365
Creek	44,085
Blackfeet	23,583

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Canada's First Nations

- ❖ The **FIRST NATIONS** consist of about **630 tribes**.
 - Historically, relations with the Canadian government have been generally good.
 - Many live in **Indian Reserves** on land given to them.
- In **1999** Canada created **NUNAVUT**, an **Inuit-governed territory**, by dividing the Northwest Territories (NWT) into two areas.

Sugar Cane Indian Reserve, Williams Lake, BC, c.1899

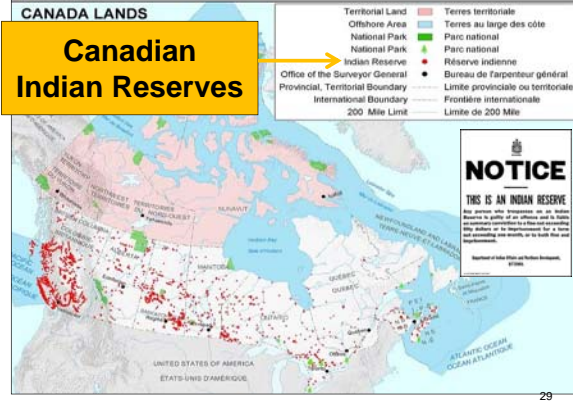


Present day



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Canadian Indian Reserves



CANADA LANDS

- Territorial Land / Terres territoriales
- Offshore Area / Terres au large des cotes
- National Park / Parc national
- Indian Reserve / Réserve indienne
- Office of the Surveyor General / Bureau de larpenteur général
- Provincial, Territorial Boundary / Limite provinciale ou territoriale
- International Boundary / Frontière internationale
- 200 Mile Limit / Limite de 200 Miles


NOTICE

THIS IS AN INDIAN RESERVE

Not to be used for any purpose other than that for which it was established. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure that the use of this land does not conflict with the rights of the Indian Band and the Government of Canada.

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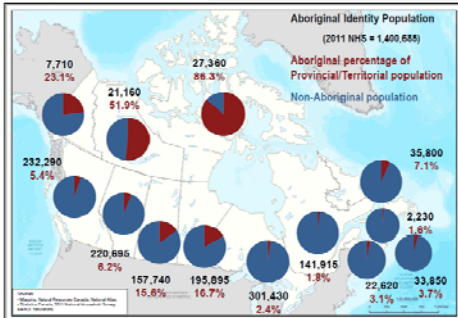
Concentrations of Native Americans in Canada



- The **2006 National Census of Canada** counted over 1.2 million native people.
- Inuit groups** accounted for c.500,000 people.
- North American **Indian tribes** totaled c.700,000 people.

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Percent Native American Identity in Canada by Province/Territory



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NEXT LECTURE

European Exploration and Colonization

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