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Standard 8.9 Lesson

8.9 Cite textual evidence analyzing examples of both cooperation and conflict between American Indians and colonists, including agriculture, trade, cultural exchanges, and military alliances and conflicts.

***EXTENDED RESPONSE LESSON

Crash Course: The Natives and the English

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTYOQ05oDOI
Native American Society on the Eve of British Colonization

The Anasazi pottery seen here has been dated between 1000 and 1300 C.E.
BrainPop - American Indians  (Brain Pop subscription paid for by Tullahoma City Schools)

https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/culture/americanindians/

In Renaissance times, Europeans were not the only ones accomplishing great things. No one can deny the beauty of Michelangelo’s brushwork or the brilliance of Shakespeare’s verse. But societies elsewhere also flourished. As the modern world turned 1600, it seems as though each corner of the globe had its own "renaissance." The Native American societies of North America were no different. They had diverse cultures and languages, much like Europe.

When the British staked their claim to the east coast of the modern United States, they could not have dreamed of the complexity of the peoples they were soon to encounter.

There are between 140 and 160 different American Indian tribes. There is no single Native American language. It would be as difficult for the Mohawk Indians of the East to converse with Zuni Indians of the West as it would be for Germans to converse with Turks.

Before Europeans arrived in North America, Native peoples inhabited every region. This map shows Native American tribes, culture areas, and linguistic stocks.

Twenty-seven states derive names from Indian languages. Native Americans turned wild plants such as corn, potatoes, pumpkin, yams, and lima beans into farm crops for human consumption. More than half of modern American farm products were grown by Native Americans before British colonization.

Medicine was not an unknown science in the Western Hemisphere. Most natural herbs used for medicinal purposes in the modern world had also been used by Native Americans before European contact. Archaeologists have learned
that North American Indians made salt by evaporation and mined a great many minerals including copper, lead, and coal. Despite myths to the contrary, not all Native Americans were peaceful. Like Europe, the American continent faced tribal warfare that sometimes led to human and cultural destruction.

The buffalo played an important role in the survival of Native American tribes. In addition to providing food, the buffalo provided clothing and more.

In short, there is no simple way to tell the tale of a continent that had been peopled by diverse communities for thousands of years. Their tales are as complex as any others, their cultures as rich, their knowledge as deep. British contact did not mark the replacement of established cultures by a better way of life, but rather the beginning of a new civilization based on a blend of diverse folkways.

An examination of three groups — Anasazi, Iroquois, and Algonkian — serves as a beginning to learning about the American world that once was.

As you read this section, keep in mind the following questions:

1. How did European explorers respond to the language, clothing, customs, dwellings, and food of the Native American peoples?
2. How did the Native Americans respond to the language, clothing, and customs of the explorers?
3. What are some of the difficulties in trying to understand someone from a different culture?
4. Why was it difficult for European explorers of the 15th and 16th centuries to understand the diversity of the native peoples who lived in the Americas?
5. How do historians and archaeologists know what the explorers experienced? How do they know what the Native American peoples experienced?
6. What do you want to know about the Americas prior to the era of European exploration? How can you find out?

**Kin Tl'iish Room View** The Anasazi knew how to party. Tour three-dimensional reconstructions of a great kiva and a great house and see where the Anasazi held their celebrations. **Lacrosse** Lacrosse, developed by Native Americans, is not only a sport, but a religious celebration, as well.
Diversity of Native American Groups

The structures Native Americans called home were extremely varied and often exclusive to tribe or region. These "apartment" style dwellings were the work of Natives of the Southwest.

Since 1492, European explorers and settlers have tended to ignore the vast diversity of the people who had previously lived here. It soon became common to lump all such groups under the term "Indian." In the modern American world, we still do. There are certain experiences common to the survivors of these tribes. They all have had their lands compromised in some way and suffered the horrors of reservation life.

Language Lessons

The Natchez chief, known as "Great Sun," was a powerful Indian leader. Unlike some Indian leaders, "Great Sun" ruled as an absolute monarch.

Stereotyping Indians in this way denies the vast cultural differences between tribes. First, there is the issue of language. The Navajo people of the Southwest and the Cherokees of the Southeast have totally unrelated languages. There were over 200 North American tribes speaking over 200 different languages. The United States used the uniqueness of the Navajo language to its advantage in World War II. Rather than encrypting radio messages, it
proved simpler to use Navajos to speak to each other in their everyday language to convey high-security messages. It worked.

**Navajo Code Talkers**

Between 1942 and 1945, about 400 Navajos served as code talkers for the U.S. Marines. They could encode, transmit, and decode a message in a fraction of the time it took a machine to do the same. And unlike with machine codes, the Japanese were never able to break the Navajo code.

**Excerpts from the Navajo Code Talkers’ Dictionary**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEANING</th>
<th>NAVAJO PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>LITERAL TRANSLATION</th>
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<td>WITH WINTER</td>
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<td>AMERICA</td>
<td>NE-HE-MAH</td>
<td>OUR MOTHER</td>
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<td>BOMBER PLANE</td>
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<td>PROBLEM</td>
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<td>BIG JOB</td>
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<td>DEBA-DE-NIH</td>
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<td>TANK DESTROYER</td>
<td>CHAY-DA-GAHI-NAIL-TSAIDI</td>
<td>TORTOISE KILLER</td>
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– excerpted from the Navajo Code Talkers’ Dictionary (revised as of June 15, 1945), Department of the Navy
"In the beginning, this place was only darkness and water until the time when a woman fell from the sky world." Thus starts the Oneida creation story. Every Native American tribe has their own history, culture, and art.

**Different Strokes for Different Folks**

Lifestyles varied greatly. Most tribes were domestic, but the Lakota followed the buffalo as nomads. Most engaged in war, but the Apache were particularly feared, while the Hopis were pacifistic. Most societies were ruled by men, but the Iroquois women chose the leaders.

Native Americans lived in wigwams, hogans, igloos, tepees, and longhouses. Some relied chiefly on hunting and fishing, while others domesticated crops. The Algonkian chiefs tried to achieve consensus, but the Natchez "Sun" was an absolute monarch. The totem pole was not a universal Indian symbol. It was used by tribes such as the Chinook in the Pacific Northwest to ward off evil spirits and represent family history.

It is important that students of history explore tribal nuances. Within every continent, there is tremendous diversity. The tribal differences that caused the Apache and Navajo peoples to fight each other are not so different from the reasons Germans fought the French. Recognizing tribal diversity is an important step in understanding the history of America.

**Illegal Trafficking** The underground trade of Native American sacred items is so brisk that over a million dollars of business is done each year, but not everyone gets away with it. A History of the Northwest Coast Who were the native inhabitants of North America’s Northwest coast? This independent website provides maps of the area as well as transcriptions of original records and journals from the conflict-filled days of first European contact with these native peoples. The stories are rich in drama and descriptions of cultures that are virtually extinct. American Indian and Alaska Native Populations How many American Indians speak their native language at home? What are the top 25 tribes? Data from the 1990 Census gives a statistical account of Native American life today. Storytelling: The Art of Knowledge This extraordinary virtual exhibit from the Canadian Museum of Civilization showcases storytelling from six native peoples: the Inuvialuit, the Algonquin, the Métis and Cree, the Nisga’a, the Abenaki, and the Mi’kmaq. Learn to understand the meaning behind certain artifacts and symbols — Why is a bird painted on a rattle? On another, why is a man’s tongue joined to a frog’s? First Nations Histories From Abenaki to
Winnebago, this independent website offers brief histories of nearly 50 Native American groups. The site is broken down both alphabetically and by region, with a link to the Native Tribes of the United States and Canada. It’s a good place to begin a study of any or all Native American tribes. **Indigenous Peoples’ Literature** Indigenous people of the Americas have maintained many of their cultural traditions for hundreds of years through oral and written modes. This independent website offers stories, documents, poetry, and speeches from indigenous peoples throughout the Americas, with special attention to the native peoples of Mexico. Over 60 origin and creation stories alone are offered here, and if you, like your reading may be accompanied by Raven Wolf’s plaintive flute music. **Native American Housing from the Pre-contact Period** Tepees and igloos are only two of several housing styles in use in North America prior to the arrival of Europeans. Native American tribes built homes and shelter according to the climate, agriculture, and materials of their environment. Therefore, many styles emerged. This independent website describes other types in detail and shows their distribution on a map of the continent. **NativeTech Native American Technology and Art** Sit back with a cup of chaparral tea (you’ll find the recipe here) and explore the many pages devoted to Native American arts and technology. Articles are separated by category with links for a variety of fields, including beadwork, clay and pottery, and stonework and tools. Although this website focuses on the Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands, there are also links for other native people. **Oneida Indian Nation** Greetings from the People of the Standing Stone is a message you can hear in the Oneidan language at the official website of the Oneida Indian Nation. Prior to European contact the Oneida people inhabited much of modern-day New York and the Oneida Nation is interested in telling their history at this website. Links to Oneidan culture, history, and economic enterprises tell the tale of the Oneida Indian Nation. **Indian Cultures** From the Wampanoag of New England to the Anasazi tribes of the Southwest this independent website explores all aspects of Native American culture. Homes, food, and clothing are some of the topics covered in this series of postings. **Native American Indian Studies — A Note on the Name** Why did Columbus call the native people of America "Indians?" He thought he landed in Asia (India to be exact) when he had actually landed in America. This University of Massachusetts website provides a brief essay on using the terms "Indian" and "Native American." **The capture and execution of the Tsimshian chief Scotseye** The war hoop from a single voice is not soon forgotten, but when a thousand join to give it utterance, under the influence of the wildest passion, it can be compared with no earthly sound. -William Sturgis, 1799. **Professor Cheryl Walker** How did Native Americans view the United States in the 19th century? Listen to guest expert Professor Cheryl Walker talk about 19th-century Native American literature.
The Algonkin Tribes

Massasoit, sachem of the Wampanoag tribe and father of Metacomet, meets with settlers. The Wampanoag helped the settlers survive their first winter by providing them with much needed supplies. But as more and more colonists arrived in New England, their relationship began to deteriorate.

When the British set foot on the North American continent at Jamestown, they encountered the Powhatan Indians. The Pequots and Narragansetts lived in New England as the Pilgrims and Puritans established a new home. William Penn encountered the Leni Lenape natives while settling "Penn’s Woods."

Although these tribes have great differences, they are linked linguistically. All of these tribes (or nations) speak an Algonquin language. These Algonkin (or Algonquian) groups were the first the English would encounter as these early settlements began to flourish.

Algonkin or Algonquian

Which word is correct? When anthropologists classified Native American languages, they took all of the languages of the same language family as the Algonkin tribe (also called the Algonquin tribe) and called it the Algonquian or Algonkin language family.

Algonquian and Algonkin both refer to the Algonquin language or to the group of tribes that speak related dialects. Therefore, the Algonquian tribes (including the Delaware, the Narragansetts, the Pequot, and the Wampanoag) are so called because they all speak the Algonkin or Algonquin language.

The group of Native Americans that lived in Pennsylvania and the surrounding area before European settlement referred to themselves as Lenni-Lenape. It was the Europeans who called them Delaware.

The Algonkians relied as much on hunting and fishing for food as working the land. These tribes used canoes to travel the inland waterways. The bow and arrow brought small and large game, and the spear generated ample supplies of fish for the Algonkin peoples. Corn and squash were a few of the crops that were cultivated all along the eastern seaboard.
Misunderstandings

King Phillips War

As the first group to encounter the English, the Algonkians became the first to illustrate the deep cultural misunderstandings between British settlers and Native Americans. British Americans thought Algonquian women were oppressed because of their work in the fields. Algonkian men laughed at the British men who farmed — traditionally work reserved for females. Hunting was a sport in England, so British settlers thought the Algonkin hunters to be unproductive.

The greatest misunderstanding was that of land ownership. In the minds of the Algonkians selling land was like selling air. Eventually this confusion would lead to armed conflict.

The Powhatan Confederacy

Colonists Between the Colonists and the Native Americans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zdp6OhiDbE

The Powhatan organized a confederacy. Virginians were met with strong resistance as they plunged westward. In New England, Wampanoags under the leadership of Metacomet fought with Puritan farmers over the encroachment west onto Indian land. The pacifist Quakers were notable exceptions. Pennsylvania refused to raise a militia against the Indians for as long as Quakers dominated the government.

Unfortunately, the good times between the groups were few. The marriage of Pocahontas to John Rolfe and the first Thanksgiving with the Puritans did little to prevent the fighting. In most cases, each side regarded the other with fear and suspicion.
The Lenape: Contact with the Dutch  Epidemic diseases weren’t the only problems Dutch settlers in the New World caused for Native American. As Natives began hunting for pelts to trade with the Dutch, territorial conflicts arose between tribes and animal populations were diminished. [pdf file]  Last of the Mohicans  A site devoted to the 1992 film version of James Fenimore Cooper’s classic novel Last of the Mohicans. Dozens of photos of film locations, accounts of film bloopers, filming anecdotes are mixed with serious discussions of historical accuracy. Beware! This site is not easy to navigate, but serendipity proves an ally in this gem-filled site.  Mi’kmaq vs. Cinderella  A study of cultures in contact, this site compares the Mi’kmaq story “The Invisible One” with Perrault’s “Cinderella.”  Wapping History  Wappinger was originally the name of a small sachemship consisting of three villages on the east side of the Hudson near Poughkeepsie. Spelling variations are: Wappinck, Wapping, Wappingo, and Wawping.  Treaty Between Virginia and the Indians 1677  Text of the Treaty of 1677 between Virginia and the Indians.  The Mashantucket Pequot Nation  The Pequot are a Native American nation that speaks a dialect of the Algonquian language. This group has lived in southeastern Connecticut for hundreds of years and before European arrival in North America. Their website offers a brief history of the Mashantucket Pequot Nation.  Pequot History  This website from a Native American history buff tells the history of the Pequot people. The Pequot story begins before European contact and continues well after their arrival. There are many links that provide more information on this Algonquian language group.  Narragansett Indians: Life Along the Bay  Another Native American group belonging to the Algonquian language family were the Narragansetts. This website from the University of Rhode Island provides a brief history of the Narragansetts, specifically as it relates to their life along the Greenwich Bay.  Delaware History  There are hundreds of Native American groups that are under the umbrella of the Algonquian language family. One of these, the Delaware, called themselves Lenape before the arrival of Europeans. This group occupied what would later be known as the middle colonies. This independent website offers a comprehensive history of the Delaware.  Common Words and Phrases in Lenape  Hear how to say "hello" and "let’s eat" in Lenape.
Documentary on the History of the Iroquois
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFIgq8D3oRk

The Massachusetts Mohawk Trail began as a Native American footpath used for trade, hunting, and social calling by five tribes, including the Pocumtuck and the Mohawk.

The Iroquois people have inhabited the areas of Ontario and upstate New York for well over 4,000 years. Technically speaking, "Iroquois" refers to a language rather than a particular tribe. In fact, the Iroquois consisted of five tribes prior to European colonization. Their society serves as an outstanding example of political and military organization, complex lifestyle, and an elevated role of women.

Mohawk Indian chief Joseph Brant served as a spokesman for his people, a Christian missionary of the Anglican church, and a British military officer during the Revolutionary War.

Governance and War

Until the 1500s, the five tribes of the Iroquois devoted much energy toward fighting and killing each other. According to oral tradition, it was about this time that they came to their senses and united into a powerful confederation.

The five tribes designed quite an elaborate political system. This included a bicameral (two-house) legislature, much like the British Parliament and modern U.S. Congress. The representatives, or sachems, from the Seneca and Mohawk tribes met in one house and those of the Oneida and Cayuga met in the other. The Onondaga sachems broke ties and had the power to veto decisions made by the others. There was an unwritten constitution that described these proceedings at least as early as 1590. Such a complex political arrangement was unknown in Europe at that time.
Table 1.2: Excerpts from the Iroquois Constitution

Roots have spread out from the Tree of the Great Peace, one to the north, one to the east, one to the south and one to the west. The name of these roots is The Great White Roots and their nature is Peace and Strength... The soil of the earth from one end of the land to the other is the property of the people who inhabit it. By birthright the Ongwehonweh (original beings) are the owners of the soil which they own and occupy and none other may hold it. The same law has been held from the oldest times. The Great Creator has made us of the one blood and of the same soil he made us and as only different tongues constitute different nations he established different hunting grounds and territories and made boundary lines between them...

Whenever a foreign nation is conquered or has by their own will accepted the Great Peace their own system of internal government may continue, but they must cease all warfare against other nations...

The women of every clan of the Five Nations shall have a Council Fire ever burning in readiness for a council of the clan. When in their opinion it seems necessary for the interest of the people they shall hold a council and their decisions and recommendations shall be introduced before the Council of the Lords by the War Chief for its consideration.

Although the tribes began to work together, they surely did not renounce war. They fought and captured other native tribes as well as wave after wave of European immigrants who presented themselves. They fought the early French and British settlers. During the French and Indian War they remained officially neutral, but would join either side to exploit an advantage. Both sides courted Iroquois support during the Revolution. As a result, there was a split in the Confederacy for the first time in over 200 years. Iroquois fought Iroquois once more.
The Iroquois Tribes, also known as the Haudenosuanee, are known for many things. But they are best known for their longhouses. Each longhouse was home to many members of a Haudenosuanee family.

The longhouse was the center of Iroquois life. Archaeologists have unearthed longhouse remains that extend more than the length of a football field.

Agriculture was the main source of food. In Iroquois society, women held a special role. Believed to be linked to the earth’s power to create life, women determined how the food would be distributed — a considerable power in a farming society.

Women were also responsible for selecting the sachems for the Confederacy. Iroquois society was matrilineal; when a marriage transpired, the family moved into the longhouse of the mother, and family lineage was traced from her.

The Iroquois society proved to be the most persistent military threat the European settlers would face. Although conquest and treaty forced them to cede much of their land, their legacy lingers. Some historians even attribute some aspects of the structure of our own Constitution to Iroquois ideas. In fact, one of America’s greatest admirers of the Iroquois was none other than Benjamin Franklin.

Traditional Indian Corn Soup Click here for a traditional Indian Corn soup recipe! Tasty! Iroquois Literature This webpage gives an introduction to the traditional Iroquois view of the world. Look for the links to the Iroquois Constitution, oral tradition and information about the literature of individual Iroquois nations. The Mingo Not all Iroquoisans joined the Iroquois Confederacy; the Mingos remained politically distinct. Visit this fascinating site dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the language of the West Virginia Mingo. Akatëtetkætenyö’ (to have a really good time) don’t miss the hangman game. Köiwanëëkwahntani (to amaze someone) use the searchable dictionary! The Oneida Nation — Proud and Progressive The official site of the Oneida Nation which calls itself "Proud and Progressive." Spend some time here and you’ll understand why they’re so proud of their heritage. Wampum — Native American Beadwork Beautifully crafted wampum belts were often created to record important agreements. The Hiawatha belt memorialized the union of independent nations under the Iroquois Confederacy. It and several others are pictured here, with annotated links to more information. Peace 4 Turtle Island: Haudenosuanee Iroquois The modern Haudenosuanee people seek to promote peace both within their community and with the world around them. This website, "Peace 4 Turtle Island," discusses the history and culture.
of the Haudenosaunee people. The six groups that form the large organization are each given their own link, complete with a history of that tribe. Other links lead to in-depth examinations of the Haudenosaunee heritage. Topics include cultural sensitivity, Haudenosaunee clothing, and longhouses. Haudenosaunee Children’s Page Print out one page and create your own Iroquois Paper doll.