



EARLY PEOPLES

Indians of Eastern North America

Indians of Eastern North America explores the daily life, history, and culture of American Indians who inhabited the eastern part of North America.

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

1. Most of the Indians of the Northeast and the Southeast had a matrilineal society in which a child belonged to the clan of his or her ...
 - a. Mother
 - b. Father
 - c. Uncle
 - d. Children
2. The Cherokee celebrated the first new moon of spring in ...
 - a. April
 - b. February
 - c. March
 - d. May
3. The crops known as the "three sisters" were ...
 - a. Beans, squash, corn
 - b. Pumpkins, sunflowers, gourds
 - c. Peas, sweet potatoes, rice
 - d. Wheat, squash, potatoes
4. In the 1830's, the U.S. government staked a claim to Seminole land in ...
 - a. Oklahoma
 - b. Florida
 - c. Mississippi
 - d. Montana
5. What did Eastern Indian tribes use deer hooves for?
6. Who was Ely Samuel Parker?

TRUE OR FALSE?

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| _____ 1. Most Northeast tribes lived far from any source of water. | _____ 4. Wampum could be used for decoration and official business. |
| _____ 2. According to Iroquois tradition, the Iroquoian tribes were always unified. | _____ 5. The Seminole hunted alligators. |
| _____ 3. The Midewiwin was a public medicine society. | _____ 6. The first people known to have made contact with the Indians in North America were Norse explorers. |

ANSWERS

- 1. a. Mother.** According to section “Binding Ties” on page 15, we know that “Most of the Indians of the Northeast and the Southeast, including the Iroquois, Cherokee, and Seminole, had a matrilineal society. According to this system, a child belonged to his or her mother’s clan.” So, the correct answer is A.
- 2. c. March.** According to section “Honoring Life and Death” on page 30, we know that “The Cherokee celebrated the first new moon of spring in March.” So, the correct answer is C.
- 3. a. Beans, squash, corn.** According to section “Working the Soil” on page 46, we know that “They called these important plants “the three sisters.” The Indians chose this name partly because of how they grew the three crops: they always planted beans, squash, and corn together in a single plot as though the three were members of one family.” So, the correct answer is A.
- 4. b. Florida.** According to section “Forced to Leave” on page 57, we know that “In the 1830’s, the U.S. government staked a claim to Seminole land in Florida.” So, the correct answer is B.
- According to page 7, Eastern Indian tribes boiled deer hooves to make glue.
- According to page 18, Ely Samuel Parker, A Seneca Iroquois, was the first Native American to head the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. False.** According to section “A Land of Trees and Water” on page 6, we know that “Most Northeast tribes lived close to rivers, streams, or lakes, where they fished and harvested freshwater plants for food.” So, the correct answer is False.
- 2. False.** According to section “Leaders Who Made a Difference” on page 18, we know that “According to Iroquois tradition, the Iroquoian tribes feuded and fought with one another during their early history.” So, the correct answer is False.
- 3. False.** According to section “Living with the Spirits” on page 27, we know that “Many tribes in the Northeast had secret medicine societies, an organization for healers. One such group was the Midewiwin (*mee DAY wee wihn*). Members were considered especially skilled at curing illness.” So, the correct answer is False.
- 4. True.** According to section “Recording History” on page 35, we know that “Although wampum could be merely decorative, it usually had a more important purpose. Indians used wampum to remember special events and to conduct the tribe’s official business.” So, the correct answer is True.
- 5. True.** According to section “The Forest’s Bounty” on page 44, we know that “The Seminole, who lived in present-day Florida, also hunted alligators and turtles.” So, the correct answer is True.
- 6. True.** According to section “A Changing Way of Life” on page 54, we know that “The first people known to have made contact with the Indians in North America were Norse explorers, who landed on the coast of what is now Newfoundland, in eastern Canada, as early as A.D. 1000.” So, the correct answer is True.