

STUDENT WORKSHEET #2:

25 Little-Known Facts About Native Americans (3 pages)

Once your teacher assigns your group facts from this list, make a group poster about them.



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- 1) Many major cities today were first Native American villages that became trading posts, forts, and eventually cities like Chicago, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, and Detroit.
- 2) According to scientists, the Native American languages can be separated into three distinct groups. This points to the likelihood of three separate migrations into North America from Asia.
- 3) The Navajo language is the only code used in battle that was never broken.
- 4) In World War II, Navajo code talkers were soldiers that used their native language to send secret messages on the battlefield. The Navajo language is one of the most complicated languages on earth.
- 5) Some historians believe that Native Americans have inhabited the Americas for the past 30,000 years.
- 6) There are 566 federally recognized tribes.

- 7) By 1900, the number of Native Americans living in America dropped to 350,000.
- 8) When Christopher Columbus first came to America, there were up to 18 million Native Americans living there.
- 9) Nearly 30% of Native Americans live below the poverty line.
- 10) About 22% of the U.S.'s 5.2 million Native Americans live on reservations.
- 11) Indians in the Northwest built totem poles outside their houses to advertise their family's status.
- 12) When a Native American man killed his first Buffalo, he was always offered the best part, the tongue, but he was expected to decline it and share it with his friends.
- 13) Iroquois women would stop eating turtles so that their babies wouldn't grow up to be clumsy. Turtles were thought of as clumsy.
- 14) Native Americans used porcupine hair to make brushes.
- 15) Both the U.S. and Canada sought to eradicate native cultures both militarily and with aggressive assimilation.
- 16) The Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole tribes were seen as being more civil by the Europeans because they had a similar social system - with planned villages and farms.
- 17) The bald eagle on the U.S. shield is actually an Iroquois Confederacy symbol.
- 18) Benjamin Franklin thought the Iroquois Confederacy had a model of government that the colonies could emulate.

19) An all-male council was elected for life to make decisions. However, women were allowed to fire the councilors at any time.

20) In the 1600's five groups of Native Americans, who were former enemies, banded together to form the Iroquois Confederacy.

21) In large part due to their service in World War I, Native Americans were given U.S. citizenship. Largely due to their service, the Native American Citizenship Act gave citizenship to all Native Americans.

22) In spite of not being American citizens, 8,000 Native Americans served in World War I.

23) These words have Native American origins: guacamole, chocolate, chili, poncho.

24) Barbeque comes from an Arawakan word meaning "framework of sticks."

25) Many American states are named after Native American names like Arizona, Kentucky, Missouri.



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