

VOCABULARY WORDS

Acculturation – one group of people entirely eliminating another, often for political or economic reasons.

Adapt – become used to or to adjust to new conditions.

Algonkian – language spoken in large portions of North America. CT Natives spoke a subgroup called Eastern Algonkian.

Algonquin – both a Canadian tribe, and the broad term for peoples of the Eastern Woodlands who speak Algonkian languages and share cultural attributes.

Ancestor – relatives that were born before you, usually farther away than your Grandparents.

Anthropology – the study of human beings and their ancestors through time and space, noting changes in physical, environment, social relations and culture.

Archaeology – the study of past peoples through the objects they leave behind; the study of material remains from human activity (such as pottery, tools, jewelry, stone walls, monuments), a study of past human life and human activities using artifacts.

Artifact – a handmade object, or the remains of one which gives important information about a culture.

Atl-Atl – a spear or dart throwing weapon made of a rod or a board with a hook at the rear used to launch the weapon with greater force with a lever-like action.

Assimilation – individual and groups of differing heritages develop the basic habits, attitudes, and mode of life of an occupying or dominant culture.

Cache – a hiding place, especially for storing food, tools, or weapons.

Climate – the usual weather conditions in a specific place or region. A region of the earth having certain weather patterns.

Climate change – any noticeable change in the measures of climate over an extended period of time. Weather changes over a very long time period.

Colonialism – control by one country over another area and its people.

Colonize – to take control of an area (sometimes by force) and send people to live there.

Colony – a group of people living in a new territory (place), but keeping ties with their original country/state/government.

Cradleboard – a board to which a baby is strapped, traditionally used by Native Americans in North and South America.

Culture – a group of people that share the same or similar beliefs, wear the similar clothes, eat similar foods and speak the same or a similar language. Beliefs, clothing, attitudes, and practices that represent a group of people.

Dugout canoe – a canoe made from a hollowed out tree trunk. Made by burning out the center and scraping with a stone tool.

Eastern Woodlands – the Eastern Woodlands include moderate climate areas, roughly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi river, including the great lakes, Connecticut and New York.

Elder – a person who has gained a great deal of wisdom throughout his/her lifetime. Very important members of a Native American tribe, who have a great knowledge of Native American history, lore, beliefs, etc.

First Nation – in Canada, indigenous peoples who live south of the arctic circle.

First Peoples – the earliest known people to live in any region, in contrast to other people who have settled, occupied, or colonized the region more recently.

Flint – a hard dark quartz that produces a spark when struck by steel.

Flint Knapping – the shaping of flint, chert, or other stone that has a naturally occurring shell shaped (conchoidal) fracture or break. The practice of using one stone to strike (hit) another stone which is being shaped into an arrowhead or projectile point.

Glacier – a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by snow piling up and being compacted/squished on mountains or near the north and south poles.

Glaciation – the process, condition or result of being covered by glaciers or ice sheets.

Gourd – a fleshy, typically large fruit with a hard skin, belonging to the same family as pumpkin. Some varieties are edible, though gourds are typically used in making dishes, spoons, other utensils, and musical instruments.

Headdress – an elaborate covering for the head, usually worn during ceremonies or events.

Inhabitant – a person or animal that lives in or occupies a space.

Indigenous – made, living, or existing naturally in a particular region or environment. Native Americans are considered to be indigenous to America.

Land loss – the loss of land due to another country or culture taking the land you are currently living on and using it them for themselves, often resulted in loss of sacred sites, ancestral burial locations, and loss of culture.

Lean-to – a temporary rough shelter that leans to form a space.

Migration – to move from one country or region to another(as in humans); To pass periodically or seasonally from one place to another for feeding or breeding (as in migrations of animals/birds/fish/butterflies, etc.)

Moccasin – soft leather shoe, shaped to the foot below the ankle, originally worn by Native Americans.

Mural – a painting or other work of art produced directly on a wall.

Petroglyph – a carving on a rock, especially one made in prehistoric times. Different than hieroglyphs, which were based on a set writing system.

Pictograph – a painting on stone, using natural colors. Usually found in caves or other areas where they are not exposed to the weather.

Pow Wow – a Native American ceremony involving feasting, singing, and dancing. There is usually a dancing competition. Pow Wow comes from the Narragansett word “pow waw”, meaning “spiritual leader.”

Projectile point – a hand-shaped point that was attached to a weapon capable of being thrown (ie spear, dart, or arrow).

Quahog – a large, rounded edible clam of the Northern Atlantic Coast of America. Shells are used in making wampum.

Quinnnetukut – name given to this area by Native Americans, an Algonkian word which means “place of the long water.” Eventually, Europeans changed the spelling to “Connecticut.”

Rattle – a thing used to make a rattling sound, used in ceremonies. Rattles can be made of many different materials, including but not limited to: gourds, bark, hooves, horn, turtles, or plastic.

Rawhide – still untanned leather, used for tying things together or for making drums. Rawhide is commonly used today as a dog chew toy.

Replica – a copy of something, exact in all the details, although different materials may be used.

Reservation – a defined area of public land set aside for use by Native Americans.

Resource – a supply of something that someone has and can use when it is needed. Examples of resources include plants, water, rocks, trees.

Sachem – a North American Native American chief, especially Algonkian. The sachem can be chief of one tribe or an entire group of tribes (federation).

Seasonal Rounds – moving from one area rich in resources to another to find area rich in resources depending on the season; a pattern that was repeated yearly. Also known as the annual round.

Soapstone – a soft stone or rock with a slippery texture, or having a soapy feel (made up primarily talc, chlorite, and magnetite).

Spear – a thrusting weapon with a long handle (shaft) and a sharp head or blade at the tip.

Sustainability – a process or state that can be maintained over time, meeting the needs of the present without threatening future needs.

Tanning – a way of turning hide into leather. Chemicals are used today, in the past they used urine and brain tanning.

Taxidermy – the art of preparing, stuffing, and mounting the skins of animals with lifelike effect.

Technology – the use of science to invent useful things or solve problems. Any tool that was made to perform a certain task, or a certain way of doing things.

Territory – an area of land that belongs to or is controlled by a government, an area that an animal or group of animals uses and defends.

Three Sisters – the three main food crops of various Native American groups in the Americas – The three sisters are typically winter squash, maize (corn), and climbing beans. The corn removes nitrogen from the soil, the beans climb up the corn stalk, and put nitrogen back into the soil. The squash leaves create a type of ground cover to reduce weeds and hold in moisture.

Timeline – a line that includes marks showing when particular events happened in the past. A timeline puts important events in an easy to read graph to track changes over time.

Trade – the act of giving or taking one thing in return for another, primarily for economic gain.

Tradition – a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society for a long time. An inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior.

Tribe – a group of people that includes many families and relatives who share the same language, customs, and beliefs. A community of people who share common language, customs or beliefs.

Wampum – small, circular beads of white and purple made by some Native American people from shells, strung together and worn as a decoration. “Wampum” is the Narragansett word for “white shell beads.” The white beads are made from the whelk shell, and the purple beads are made from the quahog shell.

Wigwam – a dome-shaped hut made by fastening bark over a framework of poles, used formerly by some Native Americans in the Eastern Woodlands region.

Weir – a fence or trap set in a waterway for taking fish.