



UNIT THREE

EARLY INHABITANTS



This was our hunting ground and you have taken it from us. This is what sits heavy [on our] hearts and the hearts of all nations.

Cornstalk, 18th century Shawnee leader

We've lived here in these mountains for thousands of years. This is our home.

Driver Pheasant, 20th century Cherokee

(Joseph 1994:261,328)

Pricketts Fort was a refuge fort serving as a defensive point in the event of an attack by Native Americans angered by the encroachment of permanent white settlement. Although there is no documentation of an attack ever having taken place here, within the region, there were several notable attacks and destruction. The year 1777 is referred to as the “Year of the Three Bloody Sevens.” Native American attitude toward land ownership and possession conflicted with the European settler (Native Americans were often considered “savage” inhabitants of the land and were treated in the same manner as the panther and wolf). The last Native American foray in West Virginia took place in 1795, with the Treaty of Greenville ending the claim to occupancy of the state by Native Americans.

SUGGESTED UNIT THREE ACTIVITIES

PRE -VISIT

- Draw a picture of a “Native American” or write a description. Identify preconceived notions/stereotypes of Native Americans.
- Review the terminology from section on Native People in *A Guide to Pricketts Fort*. Complete the Early Inhabitants Word Search (3-A).
- Look at the map of tribal territories in the region. Research and discuss tribal differences.



- Look at the map of Native American trails in *A Guide to Pricketts Fort*. Compare these to current West Virginia highway systems.
- Review Unit 5: Local History *In the Mountain State*.
- Examine the Royal Proclamation Line and Treaty of Camp Charlotte.
- Construct a device that would have been used by Native Americans during this time.
- Choose a meal and a menu that you might have today. Compare and contrast the methods of obtaining food items today to the Native American experience.
- Examine non-European food stuffs. Discuss what preparation was necessary prior to cooking? Where would foods have come from? What did they grow in their garden? What animals do they harvest? What animals do they keep either as pets or for food?
- Read *The Legend of Monongehela*, an Indian legend relating to place name. (See Price book in Bibliography).
- Read other Native American myths or legends.
- Choose a game you played when younger and compare this to a Native American game. What life skills do the games teach?
- Have a debate on the subject: Did the Europeans settlers have the right to claim this territory? (One group should represent the Native Americans and one the white settlers)
- LOG ENTRY: Compare the role of 18th century Native American children to your family role today?
- LOG ENTRY: How would you feel if someone set up camp in your front yard?

LEARNING TRUNK

- Examine and identify the Native American items. What are items made of and why? Discuss the use of various items. Are those items used today?
- Role-play using Native American clothing and artifacts.
- Close the trunk and list as many items and their uses as you can from memory.
- Play a simple Native American game – Begging Sticks. (3-B)

POST-VISIT

- LOG ENTRY: How has visiting the Fort changed your perception of Native Americans?
- Identify places in your community that have Native American names.
- Research one of the following topics:
 - Importance of fur trade
 - Significance of jewelry
 - History of body piercing
 - Native American religion



- Roles of men and women within Native American community
- Food preparation
- Usage of plants (medicinal, food)
- Importance of salt
- Stone and/or metal work
- Music/ instruments
- Clothing construction
- Use of furniture
- Laws and rules within tribal community, family
- Significant regional Native Americans i.e. Cornstalk
- Use recipes to make and try some native food items.

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| <i>Corn Pone</i> | |
| 1 cup corn meal | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 3/4 cup boiling water | 1 tablespoon lard or fat |
| Combine the meal and salt and, while blending gradually add water. | |
| Melt the fat in the baking pan. After pan is greased, pour surplus into the mixture and blend. The mix should not be more than one inch thick in the baking pan to start with. It will rise very little. (to make it rise like corn bread, 2 teaspoons of baking powder would be needed) The pone will develop a rich, brown crunchy crust. | |
| In this modern day it would take about 50-60 minutes in a 350 oven. It was usually baked in a "step oven" on the wood stove or fried on a griddle where a stove lid was removed. Corn bread and corn pone was a staple in the mountaineer diet. With greens, called "salit greens", meat, and of course, cold milk from the spring house. This was good eating and friends were always welcome. | |
| <i>Recipe from Dr. Toy Nelson courtesy of MasterCook.</i> | |

EXTENDED LEARNING

- Visit other Native American sites in the area.
- Trace your family history to check for Native American heritage.
- Debate Native American attitudes today:
 - Should sports teams use Native American names?
 - Should 4-H be allowed to continue using Native American traditions?
- Do a class or individual Social Studies Project on one of the following topics:
 - Compose a comparative time line of Native American and world history.
 - Research related occupations: anthropologist, historian, archaeologist...
 - Pow-wows today.



BIBLIOGRAPHY REFERENCES

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2002 Digging a Frontier Fort. *Wonderful West Virginia*. August.
- Bray, G. et al
2002 *A Guide to Pricketts Fort*. PFMF.
- Byers, Randolph and Tenney
1999 *In the Mountain State*. West Virginia Humanities Council.
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2002 Native Culture. *A Guide to Pricketts Fort*. PFMF.
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1975 *Games of the North American Indians*. Dover Publications, Inc.
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1974 *How Indians Use Wild Plants for Food, Medicine, and Crafts*. Dover Publications, Inc.
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1961 *Captured by the Indians: 15 Firsthand Accounts, 1750-1870*. Dover Publications, Inc.
- Erdoes, R. and A. Ortiz.
1984 *American Indian Myths and Legends*. Pantheon Books. (some stories are not recommended for students)
- Joseph, A. M.
1994 *500 Nations: An Illustrated History of North American Indians*, Alfred A. Knopf
- McNeill, L.
1979 *Elderberry Flood*. Elderberry Books.
- O'Neil, J. F.
1995 *Their Bearing is Noble and Proud*. JTGS Publishing.
- Price, W. B., ed.
1991 *Tales and Lore of the Mountaineers*. McClain Printing Company.
- Nies, J.
1996 *Native American History: A Chronology of a Culture's Vast Achievements and Their Links to World Events*. Ballantine Books.
- Pyle, R. L.
1991 *All That Remains: A West Virginia Archaeologist's Discoveries*. Archaeological Archives, Inc.
- Robe-Terry, A. L.

1997 *Bootstraps and Biscuits: 300 Wonderful Wild Food Recipes from the Hills of West Virginia*. McClain Printing Company.

VIDEOS

- *The Education of Little Tree* (Cherokee heritage)
- *Last of the Mohicans* (French-Indian Wars)
- *The Patriot* (depiction of Eastern Woodland Indians)
- *The First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story*

INTERNET SITES

General:

West Virginia Division of Culture and History

www.wvculture.org

Website that covers all aspects of state

www.kidsconnect.com

Archaeology:

West Virginia Department of Highways

www.wvdot.com/3_roadways/3d_archaeology.htm

Reed Farm Archaeological site re: Corridor H Construction

www.reedfarmstead.com/html/history1fr.htm

Council for West Virginia Archaeology

<http://cwva.org/>

Native American:

<http://www.nativetech.org/>

<http://nativetech.org/games/>

<http://www.recipesource.com/ethnic/americas/native/>

Corn Pone Recipe

<http://www.setel.com/~sarah/recipe102.html>

Native American genealogy:

http://www.tngenweb.org/cherokee_by_blood/miller.htm

<http://www.netmodem.com/dawes/>

<http://freepages.cultures.rootsweb.com>

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Chestnut Ridge People, Barbour County
- County Historical Societies
- Herbalists within the community



VOCABULARY

Anthropologist - scientist who studies the origins, development, customs, and beliefs of humans

Archaeologist - scientist who studies what is left behind by ancient people

Artifact - object made and used by people

Atlatl - simple shaft or handle with weights used by Archaic Indians to throw spears or darts with more force

Culture - beliefs, customs, and civilization of a particular people or group

Flint - hard material (rock) found regionally use for projectile points (later used by pioneers/ early western Virginia settlers)

Forting up - term used by settlers when going to stay at the fort

Geologist - scientists who study the origin, history, structure of the earth

Heritage - values and traditions handed down from previous generations

Immunity - natural resistance to disease

Native American foray – Native American raid

Migration - moving from one area or country to another

Militia - military force composed of citizen soldiers

Nomad - wanderer

Old field - clearings made by burning off existing ground covering

Prehistoric - before recorded or written history

Projectile points - arrowheads, spear points, etc.

Remnants - parts of a whole that remain

Refuge fort - fort used by civilians for protection against

Attacks - not a military fort

Run - a creek or stream often a part of the place name

Scouts - (spies) traveled certain routes, watching for any signs of Indians to warn neighboring families of trouble