

Unit 1, Lesson 2: Survival

Maryland Social Studies Standards and Framework

Standard: Peoples of the Nations and World

Topic: Elements of Culture

Standard: History

Topic: Settlement and Beginnings of New Societies

Standard: Geography

Topic: Using Geographic Tools

MCCR Grade 4

MCCR Standards: SS.6.1, SS.6.5, SL.4.1

Objective

Students will:

- Compare and describe the elements of culture including shelter, recreation, education, oral traditions, art, music and language of Native American societies.
- Through interaction with reproduction Woodland Indian items and discussions concerning everyday lives to gain understanding of indigenous people survived in the past without modern technologies.
- Identify regions of Maryland: Appalachian, Piedmont Plateau, Atlantic Coastal Plain by their geographic characteristics

Essential Questions

How did the Native Americans adapt their environment to fit their needs?

What sort of natural resources were available to Native Americans 400 years ago?

Grade Level

3rd-5th

Teacher Background

Five hundred years ago the East Coast of North America was generally covered with mixed hardwood forests that contained many giant trees. Areas of smaller growth, shrubs and grasslands existed where fire, either natural or set by Native people, had burned. In general, Woodland Indian culture and societies were based on an adaptation to this forested environment. The map of Woodland Indians in Maryland reflects the information known about what groups occupied Maryland at that time. Each Tool Kit listed on the Materials list is explained briefly below. For additional information refer to the What's in the Box guide and Overview of Woodland Indian Lifeways.

Stone Shaping Tools

- Hammerstone: used to remove pieces of stone
- Elk Antler Billet (hammer): remove flakes from a stone with more control than a hammerstone

Unit 1, Lesson 2: Survival



- Antler Pressure Flaker: used to press off small flakes from the edge of a stone tool
- Manufacturing Sequence: series showing the process of shaping a stone tool
 - First the hammerstone is used to remove flakes, roughly shaping the tool and creating what is called a preform
 - The antler billet is used to refine the shape
 - The pressure flaker is used to do the final shaping and sharpening the edge

Woodworking Tools

- Wooden Bowl: product in this group.
- Ground Stone Celt: would have been hafted as an axe to be used for cutting down trees
 - Because stone tools aren't great at shaping wood, Native American often used fire to help shape tools
- Drill: used by spinning the handle in ones hands; using the included board, students can try using the drill to make a hole

Hunting Tools

- Arrow: bows and arrows were introduced into Maryland around 1200 years ago and became one of the main hunting tools
- Hafted Knife: used for butchering and skinning animals
- Furs: could be used to make clothing or bedding
- Fishhook & Line: the fishhook was made from bone and the line is cordage made from plants
 - Native Americans had many methods of fishing beyond fishhooks and lines including weirs, traps, nets, and spears. These can be seen in the John White painting

Animal Hide Preparation & Use

- Flesher: used to scrape tissue off animal skins
- Beamer: used to remove fur from animal skins
- Tanned Deer Hide: skins must be tanned (turned into leather) before they can be used
 - Without tanning you get rawhide (like dog treats)
- Awl: used to punch holes in tanned hides
- Needle: used with string made from sinew or plant fibers to sew hides into clothing or bedding

Containers

- Clay Pot: made through coil construction and used for cooking and storage
 - The round bottom makes them strong and helps prevent food from burning during cooking
- Gourd Bowl: gourds would be dried and then could be cut to create bowls or left whole for water bottles

Unit 1, Lesson 2: Survival



- Bark Basket: made by peeling bark off trees; they were a multi-use container that was easy to make
- Woven Basket: could be made from a variety of plant materials; used when one didn't need a water-tight container such as for hold gathered foods

Lesson Procedure

1. Ask students to imagine themselves living exactly where they do today, but 500 years in the past, before European colonization. What would they see in their environment? Write this list upon the blackboard.
 - a. Land covered in forests, huge trees, and rivers
 - b. Animals: rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, beaver, muskrat, otter, deer, bob cat, panther, elk, bear, wolves, fox, ground hogs, opossum
 - c. Birds: turkey, geese, ducks.
 - d. Fish, freshwater mussels, eels, and clams and oysters in the tidewater region
2. Ask the class what the three basic needs of every human are [Food, Water, and Shelter (including clothing)] and write them beside the first list written on the blackboard.
3. After the lists are compiled, ask the students to write a brief constructed response on the following questions.
4. How might you obtain the three basic human needs from the woodland environment found 500 years ago? What kind of tools might you need to survive in these surroundings (To hunt, to cook, to make clothes and shelter) and how would you make them?
5. Divide the class into small groups and give each group one of the Tool Kits provided in the trunk. Ask each group to analyze the objects in their tool kit as a group of items that are used together for an activity or task. All of the items are related to each other through the task or function that they perform. Each group should take about 10 – 15 minutes to observe the tool kits and to fill out the Tool Kit worksheet. During this time, the teacher should spend a few minutes with each group helping them to identify the objects, the materials they are made from, and their functions.
6. Bring the class back together and ask each group to present their findings.
 - a. What kinds of materials do the tools or objects have in common?
 - b. Can you identify tools in one kit that were made by another kit? Or could have been used in another kit?
 - c. How effectively were the Woodland Indians using their environment?

Materials

Stone Shaping Tools

- Hammerstone
- Elk antler billet (hammer)
- Antler pressure flaker
- Manufacturing Sequence – from rock to finished stone tool

Woodworking Tools

- Hand drill and board
- Groundstone Celt
- Wooden bowl

Unit 1, Lesson 2: Survival



Hunting Tools

- Arrow
- Fishhook & line
- Hafted knife
- Furs
- Image - John White's painting of fishermen in a dugout

Animal Hide Preparation & Use Kit

- Bone flesher
- Bone beamer
- Tanned deer hide piece
- Awl
- Needle

Containers

- Clay pot
- Gourd bowl
- Bark basket
- Woven basket

Images

Map of Woodland Indian Groups in Maryland John White's painting of fishermen in dugout canoe

Related Recourses:

John White's painting of fishermen in dugout canoe Related Resources: Hulton, Paul. America 1585: the Complete Drawings of John White. The University of North Carolina Press and British Museum Publications. 1984.

Idaho Museum of Natural History Cordage Discovery Box

http://imnh.isu.edu/Public/JustForKids/CordageDiscoveryBox/Home_page/mm_temp.htm

www.nativetech.org Very extensive and informative website on Native American technology and art emphasizing the Eastern Woodlands region.