

Identifying Native American Cultural Regions- Observation Activity

In this activity, students will observe the natural environment as present day students and as pre-colonization Native Americans. Students will be asked to identify aspects of the landscape, climate, and natural resources that they witness currently, and then apply their knowledge to speculate if Natives lived in this area pre-1492.

Procedure:

- 1) Give students "Observation Sheet." Have students bring their sheet, a pencil, and a clipboard and find a quiet place to sit outside.
- 2) Ask students to close their eyes and sit quietly for five minutes in order to hear and smell their environment.
- 3) Ask students to open their eyes, and without talking, answer the questions on the Observation Sheet. This is an individual activity. Give students approximately 15-20 minutes.
- 4) Have students partner up and compare sheets, adding details that they missed or did not notice. Give students approximately ten minutes.
- 5) Lead a class discussion with the following questions:
 - a. What are vital resources Natives would have had available to them in this area?
 - b. What are limitations or dangers of this area?
 - c. Based on what we discussed, do you think Native Americans inhabited this area pre-1492?

Assessment:

See attached rubric.

Observation Sheet- Cultural Regions

Name: _____ Period: _____

PART 1 DIRECTIONS: Sit quietly and observe the environment around you. Answer the following questions with as much description and detail as you can.

1) What **landmarks** do you see? *Landmarks are the natural formations on the Earth's surface.*

2) What **natural resources** do you see? *Natural resources are things that humans can use for survival or for monetary gain.*

3) What **plants** can you identify?

4) What **animals** and **insects** can you identify?

4) Describe the weather today. What do you know about the climate of this area? What are some items of clothing you should be wearing to be comfortable and functional in this environment?

5) Transport yourself to 1490. If you lived here, what are things you could eat?

6) What could you use for shelter?

7) What other resources could you use for survival?

8) What would you wear in order to be comfortable and functional?

Identifying Native American Cultural Regions Rubric

	Highly Proficient	Proficient	Approaching Proficient	Not Proficient
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answered all questions thoroughly and thoughtfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answered all questions with some thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answered most questions with some thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Answered less than 60% of questions
Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zero errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One error	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three or more errors
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skillful and accurate vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adequate and appropriate vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vague and/or weak vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ineffective and/or incorrect vocabulary