

Native American Identity Quiz

1. Can you name five tribes?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
2. How many federally-recognized tribes of Native Americans live in the United States in 2016?
 - a. 189
 - b. 357
 - c. 567
 - d. 782
3. In what kind of dwelling did Native Americans historically live?
 - a. Hogan
 - b. Tipi (or teepee)
 - c. Longhouse
 - d. Bark lodge
 - e. All of the above
4. What tribes lived historically in Arkansas? (circle all that apply)
 - a. Quapaw
 - b. Kickapoo
 - c. Caddo
 - d. Chickasaw
 - e. Osage
5. Do all Native Americans participate in powwows? (circle one)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. What kind of clothing do Native Americans wear?
 - a. Buckskin and moccasins
 - b. T-shirt and jeans
 - c. Parka and fur boots
 - d. Tailored suit
 - e. All of the above
7. Do all tribes speak the same Native American language? (circle one)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

1. Most people will immediately think of the Cherokee and Navajo tribes, who are the most populous. However, there are 39 tribes living in Oklahoma alone, ranging from the Absentee Shawnee to the Yuchi (Euclidean). Each tribe is unique in size, culture, and tradition.
2. As of 2016, there are 567 federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in the United States. For a complete list, visit: <http://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xraca/documents/text/idc1-033010.pdf>.
3. Historically, American Indians and Alaska Natives lived in many types of dwellings, including hogans, tipis, longhouses, bark lodges, and pueblos. The dwelling differed based on the lifestyles of the tribes and their geographic location. The Plains tribes favored tipis due to their nomadic hunting lifestyle, while longhouses were used by tribes of the Pacific Northwest and were made from timber. Some tribes living arrangements were reflective of their clan or kinship systems and familial relations. While most Natives live in contemporary homes, many still use traditional dwellings for cultural and spiritual ceremonies.
4. The Caddo, Quapaw, and Osage lived in Arkansas around the eighteenth-century. However, after the westward expansion of the United States, the federal government imposed a series of treaties, between 1808 and 1835, that forced the Caddo, Quapaw, and Osage to relinquish their Arkansas lands. All three tribes were removed to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, their present-day location. The Caddo are now located in Binger; the Quapaw have their headquarters at Quapaw; and the Osage are in Pawhuska. For more information: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=408>.
5. The idea that all Native Americans participate in powwows is a misconception. Historically, powwows began as intertribal gatherings among Plains tribes. Today, many Native people do attend powwows all around the country in urban, reservation, and rural settings. Powwows serve many purposes, including entertainment, renewal of friendships, dancing, singing, and celebrating identity. Powwows are social gatherings, but many also include dance competitions where dancers are judged on their regalia, dance styles, and ability to stay on beat with the drum music. Powwows promote respect and understanding among people of different tribal backgrounds.
6. Although many Native people have incorporated elements of their cultures into their clothing styles, most Native people wear regular, contemporary clothing daily. But regalia and ceremonial dress are worn during important events or ceremonies and express the significant role of culture to Native people living in a contemporary world. Styles, colors, and designs of regalia or dress signify age, status, region, or spirituality to people who understand and recognize what they are looking at. Accoutrements such as feathers, jewelry, or headdresses also have special significance. Some Native people, however, wear elements of traditional-style clothing today for practical reasons. For example, to keep warm, Inupiat hunters still wear sealskin mitts and boots when hunting walrus or caribou. Or, for comfort, some Native people wear moccasins with blue jeans.
7. Before European contact, there were over 1,000 Native languages spoken in North, Central and South America. Most Native cultures preserved the history and traditions orally and had no written language. With attempts by colonizers and missionaries to eradicate Native languages, there are only 139 spoken Native languages in the United States today. However, many tribes have resources dedicated to preserving and revitalizing their Native language. Learn more here: <http://www.native-languages.org/>.

