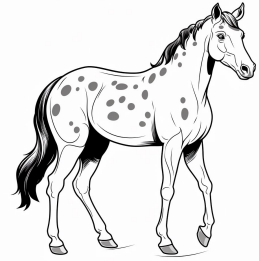


Name: _____

Precolonial America

Pacific Northwest and California Tribes



Directions: Read the following passage then answer the questions.

Nez Perce: Horse Riders of the Forest

Deep in the lush green forests, near the winding Snake River, lived the Nez Perce. They weren't just forest folks. They were expert horse riders. In fact, they bred the Appaloosa horse. With its unique, dappled coat, this horse was a sight to behold. Can you imagine riding a horse that looks like it's dotted with paint?

But horses weren't their only passion. They were expert fishers, capturing salmon as they leaped upstream. They lived in harmony with the nature around them, respecting every stream and tree.

Chinook: Masters of Trade & Water

Where the grand Columbia River kisses the ocean, the Chinook tribe made their bustling homes. Think of them as the marketplace of the Pacific Northwest! Need a sturdy canoe or shimmering seashells? The Chinook were open for business!

Their plank houses were built using tall cedar trees. They stood strong against the rain. When the Chinook weren't trading, they were out at sea. They were expert fishermen. And they gracefully piloted their long, carved canoes. They danced with the waves and brought back bountiful catches.

Coast Salish: Weavers & Carvers Extraordinaire

Ever seen trees tell tales? The Coast Salish could make it happen! With skilled hands, they transformed cedar into towering totem poles, each narrating an ancient legend. And their weaving? Magic! They wove delicate designs on blankets, turning simple wool into masterpieces. Patterns danced on these blankets, making them not just warm, but wonderful.

They had a deep connection to the waters. Living by the shores and building their homes near the sea. The Coast Salish listened to the waves' stories while fishing and gathering treasures from the ocean's embrace.

Chumash: Star-gazers of Sunny California

Under California's golden sun, beside the twinkling Pacific, the Chumash tribe roamed. By day, they sailed the sea in their plank canoes called "tomols." By night? They turned skyward! To them, the stars weren't just sparkling dots. They were cosmic maps and silent whisperers of ancient wisdom. They believed that the skies told stories and that they could navigate their lives by watching the heavens. Their round homes, made of willow branches and grass, looked like they belonged in a fairy tale! Nestled in these homes crafted from willow and grass, they dreamt dreams painted with starlight.

Name: _____

Precolonial America

Pacific Northwest and California Tribes

Directions: Read the following passage then answer the questions.



Reading Questions

1. Why is the Appaloosa horse significant to the Nez Perce tribe? _____

2. How did the Nez Perce tribe demonstrate respect for their environment? _____

3. How did trade impact the Chinook's relationships with their neighbors? _____

4. Why do you believe this?

5. How might the Chinook might have viewed the Columbia River? _____

6. How did the Coast Salish display their stories and traditions? _____

7. Why do you think the Coast Salish chose to live near the sea? _____

8. Why might the Chumash have built their homes from willow branches and grass? _____

9. What benefits could building with these materials provide the Chumash?

10. How did the Chumash's beliefs about the stars affect their lives? _____
