



EAE Learning objectives for this lesson



Learn about the Indigenous people of the Americas and their tradition of storytelling. Practice using past tense for storytelling. Discussion, reading and listening comprehension.

Activity One - Warm-up Questions

Ask and answer the following questions with a partner or your teacher

1. What do you know about the Native Americans, the indigenous people of North America?
2. What is a storyteller?
3. Do you enjoy listening to stories? If yes, what kind? If no, why not?
4. Do you believe we have modern storytellers?
5. If you were going to tell a story, what would it be about?

Activity Two - Past Simple

The PAST SIMPLE is used when we talk about an action in the past that is FINISHED. We can use the Past Simple to talk about a sequence of events, an action that happened once, many times, or never. We use *Finished Time Expressions* (points in time that have passed) with the Past Simple to say WHEN something happened.

For example:

- I watched this film *a few days ago*.
- *Last week*, we visited our grandparents.

For negative statements, we use 'didn't' (did not) and the base verb (without 'to')

- You didn't call *yesterday*. (**Not** You didn't called/ You didn't to call)

For questions, we use 'Did' / 'Didn't' + subject + base verb

- Did they talk *on Monday*? / Didn't you go to the party *last night*?

Regular verbs in the Past Simple end in -ED. Like in the examples:

watch -> watched

visit -> visited

Irregular verbs have specific forms for affirmative sentences, but follow the same rules for negative statements and questions.

With a partner, match the irregular verbs with their Past Simple form in the table below:

See	Taught
Teach	Wore
Think	Slept
Go	Was/Were
Wear	Forgot
Send	Broke
Sleep	Saw
Forget	Took
Be	Went
Have	Thought
Break	Sent
Take	Had

With a partner, write examples of sentences in the Past Simple using Finished Time Expressions and some irregular verbs from the table.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Activity Three - Listening comprehension

“Native Americans History and Culture” by Dylan Dyer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XS8DEjd2QBg>

Watch the video and follow along with the transcript below. Fill in the missing verb in its correct form when you hear them. After the video, we will answer the comprehension and discussion questions.

They _____(be) the first people ever to live in North America. Exactly when they _____(come) and how they _____(arrive) is still a mystery. But many scientists believe that as long as 30,000 years ago some hunters from Asia _____(walk) or _____(sail) along the coast of a land-bridge that once _____(connect) Russia to Alaska. Their descendants _____(become) known as Native Americans or American Indians.

As they spread out over the vast continent, Native Americans _____(adapt) to living in different regions, and hundreds of unique cultures _____(be) born. The Plains Indians _____(hunt) buffalo by stampeding them over cliffs. On the Northern Pacific coast, tribes like the Haida and the Kwakiutl _____(sail) the ocean and _____(fish). They _____(cut) down giant red cedar trees for their houses, _____(dig) out canoes, and ceremonial totem poles.

When the first white settlers arrived in the 1500s, about a million Native Americans lived north of Mexico. But the outsiders _____(change) everything. Diseases from Europe, such as small pox and tuberculosis, _____(wipe) out entire tribes. Settlers _____(begin) to

claim Indian land for themselves. Some tribes _____ (resist) and _____ (fight) back. Others _____ (attempt) to cooperate. In the end, the result _____ (be) the same. In the late 1800s, the US Government _____ (force) the remaining Indians to leave their traditional homelands and live on tracts of land called reservations.

Over the next century, Native Americans _____ (continue) to fight for their rights through political activism. “We were told that our religion was wrong. We were told right before our faces that we were heathens. But no more we are going to take this.”

Today, there are more than 550 federally recognized tribes in the US. Native Americans are working to improve living conditions on the reservations and to preserve their languages, religions, and cultural identities.

The Potlatch, a religious ceremony that was once banned by the Canadian government, is being held again by the Kwakiutl. On the Navajo reservation, some ancient ways are blended into modern lives. This sand painting depicts The Cloud People. It’s being created to pray for the safety of a group traveling by airplane. Other Native American artists are reviving their tribe’s traditional art forms. A movement which could help these unique cultures survive into the next century.

Comprehension Questions:

1. When did Native Americans come to North America?
2. What did different tribes do in different regions?
3. What happened when Europeans arrived?
4. Where did the Natives have to go in the late 1800s?
5. How many tribes are there in North America today?
6. How are tribes trying to preserve their culture?



Activity Four - Dialogue

Read the dialogue below with your partner or teacher. Identify the infinitives of the verbs in the past tense. Then create your own dialogue about what you did on your last holiday.

Sierra: Where did you go for the holidays this year? You told me before, but I forgot!

Lucas: I went to the Bahamas! It had the most beautiful water I’ve ever seen!

Sierra: That’s right, I saw pictures! It looked amazing. What did you do there?

Lucas: I swam in the ocean, I ate delicious food and relaxed in the sun a lot! I also visited the islands and went shopping. What did you do for the holiday?

Sierra: That sounds great. I went camping in the Grand Canyon for the first time! It was incredible.

Lucas: Oh yeah? I’m sure it was beautiful! Did you enjoy it?

Sierra: So much! I hiked in the mountains and took a lot of pictures. I also kayaked in the river. I built a fire at night where I cooked food. I slept in a tent that had a transparent roof so I saw the stars every night.

Lucas: Wow, what an adventure!

Activity Five - Storytelling

For Native tribes in North America, storytelling is a very important tradition. Native American peoples and cultures had to fight to survive for hundreds of years. Because of this, they passed down their history and beliefs from generation to generation through storytelling.

We will watch a video of a Native American folklore star story from the Cheyenne tribe. Listen carefully to see what you understand the story to be about.

“Star Stories: Quillwork Girl and Her New Seven Brothers” from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian (SmithsonianNMAI)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5x-LtgO2avY&list=PLS6nSmuURFJBLIE-4uIPJMYxOV4Zpj1WZ&index=3>

- What did you understand?
- What happened in the story?
- What did this story explain?

With a partner, write a story explaining something in nature like the story of Quillwork Girl. Use the Past Simple!

Activity Six - Discussion

Discuss your answers to the following questions with your partner or teacher using the Past Simple.

- What is the last TV series you watched? When did you watch it?
- What is your favorite food and when was the last time you ate it?
- What did you do this morning?
- Where did you go last weekend?
- What activities did you like when you were young?
- What is something interesting that you learned in school?

Activity Seven - Role Plays

With a partner or your teacher, act out the following scenarios using the Past Simple.

- A. You had a crazy experience last weekend... Tell your friend all about it!
- B. You and your friend are very late for class. Explain what happened that made you so late to your teacher!
- C. You are in an interview for a new job. The interviewer asks you questions about your past work experience and studies.

