**NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL ADAPTATIONS TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT PROJECT**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Students will work in cooperative groups (4 students per group) to use primary source documents, videos, and other Internet resources to develop a power point presentation and/or a brochure that explains how a Native American cultural group adapted to a specific environment.

Students will describe the climate, physical features, flora and fauna of the region. Studens will also describe housing, clothing, food, beliefs, art/recreation and how these represent adaptation to the physical environment.

**PROCEDURES**

Step 1: Show students the Curtis Collection site that includes documentary material on many Native American tribes. Go to the link for the Kwakiutl Indians of the Queen Charlotte Islands (Northwest Coast). [www.curtis-collection.com/tribe%20data/kuakiutl.html](http://www.curtis-collection.com/tribe%20data/kuakiutl.html) Ask students to examine the pictures as they did in the previous activity and hypothesize the cultural adaptations the Kwakiutl made to their environment. Then ask students to read the narrative summary which provides additional information.

Step 2: Show students an exemplar of a teacher-developed power point presentation and a brochure (Publisher) about the Kwakiutl. Using the scoring guide ask students to evaluate the power point and/or the brochure.

Step 3. Students form groups of four. Each group will research a different Native American tribe. Two of the students in the group will research appropriate videos for information on the natural environment and cultural adaptations of the tribe. Students may use the OPB videos listed above or search for other appropriate videos (e.g., National Geographic). Two of the students will research the Curtis Collection website. Students should create a data table similar to that in the previous activity and share information with each other.

Step 4. Once the data table is complete two students in the group will create a power point presentation and the other two students in the group will create a one page brochure

**EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION:**

* accurate information about climate, physical features, flora and fauna of the region
* accurate description of housing, clothing, food, beliefs, art/recreation
* clear explanation of how these cultural practices represent adaptations the native American tribe made to their environment
* clear organization of information on each slide (topic and supporting information)
* attractive visual presentation with a variety of text, pictures, graphics, animation
* correct spelling and grammar
* complete and correct citation of sources
* shared responsibility for the presentation

**EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR MULTIMEDIA BROCHURE:**

* accurate information about climate, physical features, flora and fauna of the region
* accurate description of housing, clothing, food, beliefs, art/recreation
* clear explanation of how these cultural practices represent adaptations the native American tribe made to their environment
* clear organization of information in each paragraph(topic and supporting information)
* attractive visual presentation with a variety of text, pictures, graphics
* correct spelling and grammar
* complete and correct citation of sources
* shared responsibility for the brochure

**RESOURCES**

[www.curtis-collection.com](http://www.curtis-collection.com)

The Curtis Collection has ownership of the world's largest, most extensive collection of Copper Photogravure Plates ever produced or assembled. These Copper Photogravure Plates represent the life work of Edward Sheriff Curtis and his massive documentation of Native Americans, "The North America Indian." The site includes narrative summaries of many different tribes’ cultural adaptations to their environment as well as pictures which students can interpret for their power point presentations or brochures.

<http://www.nativeculturelinks.com/indians.html>

General Indian oriented homepages including links to digital collections re: aboriginal peoples

<http://www.si.edu/>

This is the website of the Smithsonian Institution. Use the search feature to find information on specific Native American tribes.

<http://www.nmai.si.edu/>

This is the website of the National Museum of the American Indian. Use the search feature to find information on specific Native American tribes.

[www.ewebtribe.com/NACulture/](http://www.ewebtribe.com/NACulture/)

This site provides links to nearly every aspect of Native American Culture, updated monthly. Hosted by ewebtribe.