Chapter 1 - The First Americans Study Guide

Following are pictures that show the types of Native American dwellings in the regions listed.



Southwest region



Inuit



Eastern Woodlands region



Great Plains region



Northwest Coast region

General Native American facts

• different cultures developed because each group adapted to its environment in a different way

Pacific Northwest Coast

- lived from Northern California to Alaska
- credited with creating totem poles and having potlatch ceremonies
- environment rich in abundant resources such as clams, salmon, elk, nuts, and cedar trees
- California Indians relied on acorns and pine nuts as major sources of food

Great Plains

- located east of the Rocky Mountains
- hunted buffalo to provide food, shelter, and clothing
- obtained their food hunting buffalo
- Algonquins lived in small circular huts called wigwams

Inuits

• associated with the use of kayaks

Iroquois

- Iroquois Confederacy was formed to establish peace between the five tribes
- had protective fences around their villages called 'stockades'
- Men lived in their wive's longhouses when they got married
- laws and decisions needed 5 votes in the Iroquois Confederacy council to pass
- Only women had the power to elect and remove chiefs on the Iroquois Confederacy Council

Southeast

- Cherokee, Seminole, and Natchez
- relied heavily on the 'three sisters' (corn, squash, and beans)

Southwest

- hot, dry climate
- maintained crops of corn, cotton, and squash using an irrigation system
- lived in cliff dwellings and pueblos