

Indians:

Differences in Culture:

a. Indians believed that they should respect their environment. use only what they needed. Everything had a spirit. Archiological evidences in mississippi valley of a large indian society which built large ceremonial mounds and cultivated beans , & grains. Its center was near St. Louis of present day and probably had a populatoion of 100,000.

By time Europeans arrived, Tribes were living in Scattered family groups, some were loosely allied, but the independant tribe with chief, warriors, and families was basic social unit. They had knowledge of agriculture, and did weaving . They were knowledgeable about useful and medicinal native plants, and taught early colonists much of basic survival skills.

They were clearing land, and farmed ^{land} forests, streams, ocean, and shores. Most lived in waterside villages . They had light birch-bark canoes, easily trasported, which enabled them to wander over incredible distances. They were not too unlike the typical English villages of the late 1500s and early 1600s.

Cultural differences: Europeans "owned land". Indians all owned land in common. All alnd belonged to everyone. Biggest single bone of contention between new european settlers and Indians. Possession of lands.

Indian considered every part of nature sacred. It was his duty to live in harmony with nature. He soon learned, however, the exploitation of nature-- through trading with the French and English he decimated his former plentiful hunting grounds of fur animals and other "sought after" hides and plants. His matriarcal society (the married Indian brave joined his bride's family) changed as more and more of the Indian braves left for "hunting trips", Men cleared the land, hunted for meat, and were the protectors of the families. Women kept the gardens, did the cooking, and wove clothing and treated hides and made clothing of them.

*then started to
change the
Indian
society
and
progress*

Fire arms and "firewater" changed the Indians lives, too. The biggest change in Indian life was the lowered populatiion through the disease~~s~~ brought by the European, and to which he had no immunity. Small pox, upper respiratory infections, measles, etc.

Women were more equal in Indian society than in White society. It was the woman who could divorce the man. (On the other hand, the man could sell his daughter or give her away) *loan her for the night to a visitor, which in the Indian culture was not frowned on*
The members of the tribe shared everything. No one went hungry as long as there was any food in any wigwam.

From observance of the white man, the Indian soon decided that in many ways his ways were superior to that of the whites.

The whites never thought of the Indians as anything but "savages" and "Uncivilized" and worse of all "Heathens".