

Name _____

Date _____



The Navajo

"A History So Rich"

History often says that European explorers discovered the Americas, but we'd been here for tens of thousands of years, developing diverse groups in different culture regions.

Before Columbus ever even landed,
We manned the land across the Atlantic.
Through the Americas, Native Americans
Lived and worked and preserved our heritage.
And if you didn't know, you're about to know
About our tribe: the Diné, the Navajo.
We first arrived in the Southwest desert,
Where we hunted and gathered and found food and shelter.
The Pueblo people taught us to farm the earth,
When sheep were introduced, we started to herd.
We lived in hogans made from bark, sticks and mud,
The doorways faced east toward the rising sun.
In our culture, unlike in others,
Land and clan identity, it comes from the mothers.
Worldwide, it often comes from the father,
But our women passed their land down to their daughters.
We traveled through multiple worlds, says our religion,
To get to this one, the one we live in.
And we have ceremonies, more than 50,
To restore health, balance and harmony quickly.

The Southwest US, home of the Navajo,
A history so rich, our story must be told.

A spiritual people, we still stand strong
And didn't get tired, though the walk was long.
(x2)

Like many other tribes, we suffered at
The hands of Europeans and the US government.
The Spanish came to conquer the region,
Years later, we helped the Pueblo defeat them.
But the Spanish returned, and the battles raged,
Back and forth we fought, many Navajo enslaved.
Then in 1863, the United States
Wanted our land, so they decided to take it.
They forced us to march 300 miles from home
To a reservation in New Mexico.
Many of us died on that Long Walk,
Mass deportation, it's not small talk.
And many other native tribes
Were forcibly moved and lost their lives.
And like the other tribes, we carried our culture:
Woven rugs of hand-dyed colors,
Intricate paintings from grains of sand
That are swept away after a ceremony ends.
Today, we're one of the largest native nations
With 300,000 members, so I'm saying...

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