

# NATIVE AMERICANS

Life circa 1500

# North America's First Inhabitants

- **Scientists believe the first people came to America across a land bridge at the Bering Strait. (in present-day Alaska)**
- The climate was colder and the land was covered with trees, mastodons, and other animals.
- The first people are called *Paleolithic* (Latin for “old stone,” referring to tools).

## Migrations of Early Peoples





## Section 2: Indian Life at the Time of European Contact

- **By the 1500's, Indian cultures were well organized.**
- The same basic groups still live in North Carolina today.
- **The Coastal Plain, the Piedmont, and Mountains each were home to different groups**
- **In 1500, there were more than 30 different groups in NC**
- **Each group had their own language, culture, etc.**
- **Groups ranged in size from a few villages to thousands of members.**



# Algonquin Tribes

- **The Algonquin language was spoken by groups along the coast.**
- The groups included the Chowanoc, the Pasquotank, and the Waccamaw.
- **These tribes depended on fish, fruits, and vegetables.**
- The paintings of John White of the Lost Colony feature the Algonquin.





# The Tuscarora

- **The Tuscarora lived on the Coastal Plain,** along the Neuse and Tar Rivers.
- **The Tuscarora were the most powerful group on the Coastal Plain**
- **The Tuscarora used hemp to make rope and binding cord. The name means “hemp people.”**
- Indian hemp, which is also called milkweed, is a plant that produces strong fibers, like cotton does.
- The Tuscarora used hemp to make rope, cloth for shirts, and ceremonial objects.
- The Tuscarora were connected to the Iroquois nation of New York.



# The Catawba

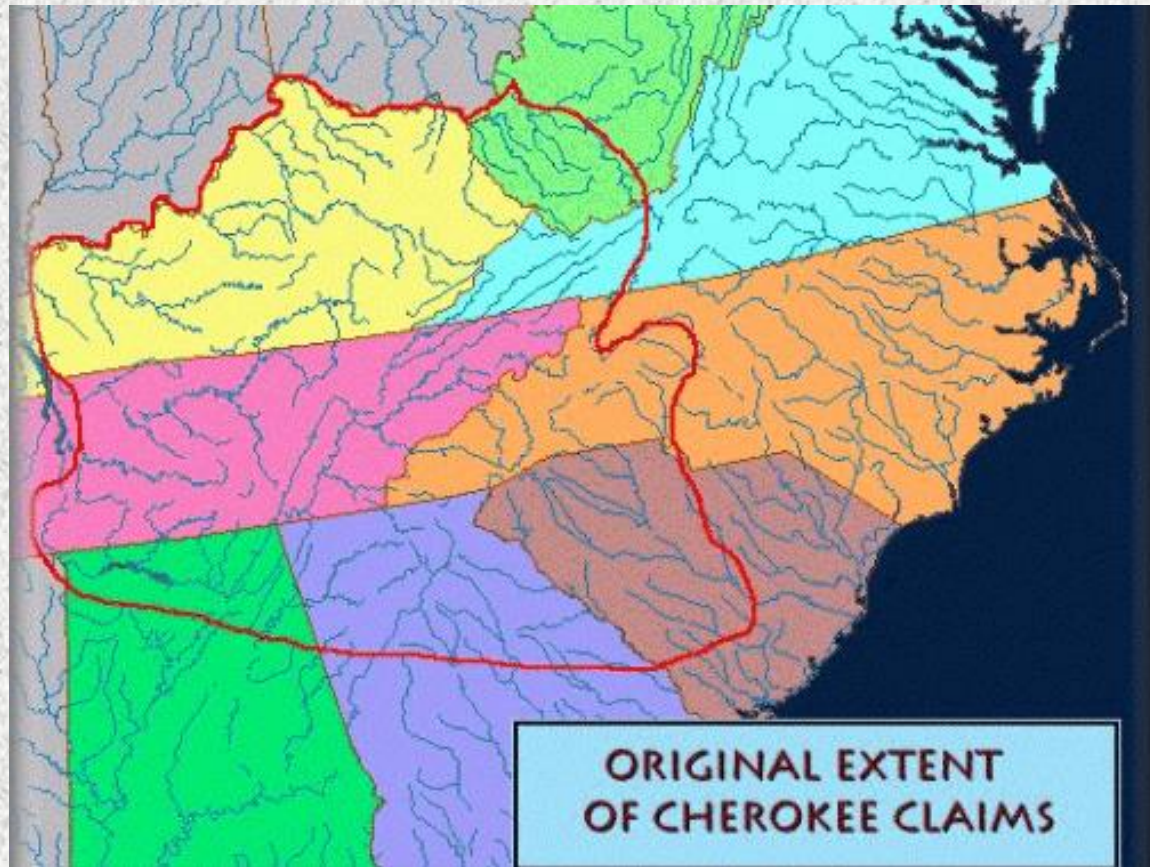
- The largest group living in the Piedmont was the Catawba.
- They were known for their burnt-black pottery.
- Tribes in the Piedmont spoke versions of the Sioux language.
- The Catawba were connected to the Sioux tribes of the Great Plains.



# The Cherokee

- They were related to the Iroquois, but had been driven away from their homes.
- During the Woodland Period, they settled in the mountains.
- **They controlled 40,000 square miles when the Europeans arrived.**
- During the Woodland Period, they numbered 30,000, and had three main divisions – upper, middle, and lower.
- Each division had their own language



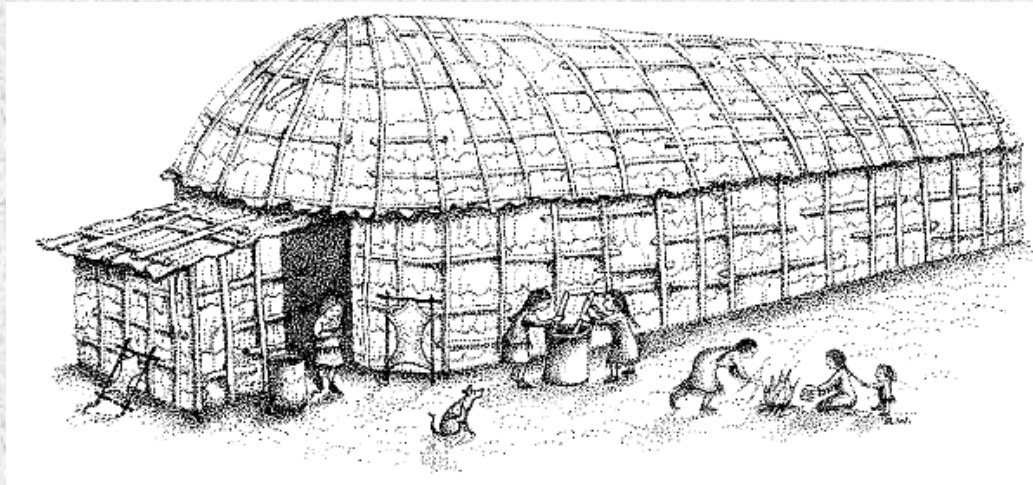


## Cherokee Land Claims

At height of their power, Cherokee controlled over 40,000 square miles in portions of eight present-day states (NC, SC, VA, WV, TN, KY, AL, GA)

# Native American Habits and Beliefs

- Villages were built of longhouses or huts.
- **Clans were connected through the mothers (matrilineal).**
- **Tribes were governed by consensus, where most members agreed on decisions.**
- **Nature was respected and was at the center of most beliefs.**
- **Europeans brought animals, plants, and disease that Native Americans had not seen.**





# The Columbian Exchange





# The Columbian Exchange

- **“Columbian Exchange” is used to describe the exchange between the Old World (Europe) and the New World (Native Americans) that occurred after 1492**
- **Plants, animals, foods, human populations (including slaves), diseases, and ideas were traded**
- **The Columbian Exchange greatly affected almost every society on earth, bringing destructive diseases that reduced the population many cultures.**
- **By some estimates, nearly 80% of the native population of the Americas was wiped out from the introduction of European diseases.**
- **The contact between the two areas also circulated a wide variety of new crops and livestock.**