

America 1835 - 1900 Lesson 2 Clash of Cultures



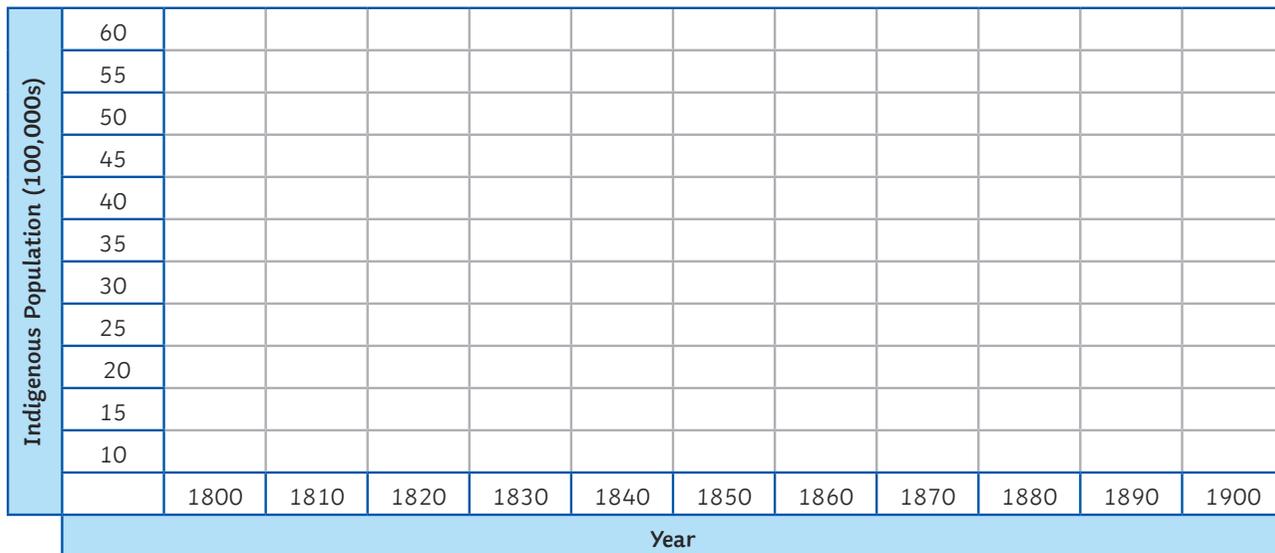
Spot the Difference

Write down as many differences between the two pictures as you can.

Before Europeans

Explain why the population of Indigenous people dropped by at least 71% following the arrival of Europeans in the Americas:

Use the table showing the Indigenous population of the modern USA to complete this line graph.



Year	Population
1800	600000
1820	471000
1845	383000
1857	313000
1870	278000
1880	244000
1890	228000



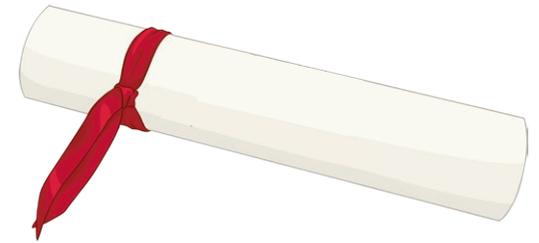
American Relations

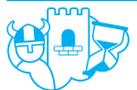
Indigenous Americans	Europeans
Believed that land was meant to be respected and nurtured, not owned.	Believed land should be divided, privately owned and cultivated.
Believed that spirits were present in all things and could be worshipped partly through respect for the environment.	Believed that God had given Americans the right to conquer and inhabit North America, (manifest destiny).
Lived a semi-nomadic lifestyle, ranging across the Great Plains following the buffalo herds.	Lived in settled areas dependant on agriculture and industry.
Lived in societies based on equality, led by those who merited respect through wisdom or strong medicine.	Lived in societies based on hierarchy, often led by elected officials, religious leaders or rich members of aristocratic families.

Explain why the differing cultures of Indigenous nations and Americans led to conflict on the Great Plains.

Some key points that you may wish to think about include:

- differing attitudes to land ownership;
- differences in religion;
- American legislation: the Indian Removal Act and the Indian Appropriations Act;
- different social structures.





The Trail of Tears

Study the two interpretations of the Trail of Tears and answer the following questions:

In the whole scene there was an air of ruin and destruction, something which betrayed a final and irrevocable adieu; one couldn't watch without feeling one's heart wrung. The Indians were tranquil, but sombre and taciturn. There was one who could speak English and of whom I asked why the Chactas were leaving their country. "To be free," he answered, could never get any other reason out of him.

Alexis de Tocqueville, a French observer in his book 'Democracy in America', 1835

It [The displacement of tribes] will separate the Indians from immediate contact with settlements of whites; free them from the power of the States... and perhaps cause them gradually, under the protection of the Government and through the influence of good counsels, to cast off their savage habits and become an interesting, civilized, and Christian community.

President Andrew Jackson, Message to Congress, 1830

In what ways do the two interpretations **differ** in their opinion of the justification of relocating nations?

Which of the interpretations do you find to be the most **convincing** account of the Trail of Tears? Explain your answer.

What Was It Like?

Write a question for either an Indigenous person or an American here:
