

Traditional Indigenous Technology

This presentation is about the technology Indigenous People used Pre-Contact (before Europeans came to North America). It also shows the contributions they have made in today's world. Without Indigenous technology, things would be very different. Be proud of the advanced state of technology Indigenous People had achieved.

Instructions: Open the "Traditional Indigenous Technology" file. As you progress through the slides, answer the following questions.

Slide 5 - Between 1492 and 1600. It was over 100 years before a colony took hold. Why? Because by and large they did not have support of the Indigenous people.

1. What was the name of the Canadian Colony that failed? _____

The reason the earlier colonies failed was because they did not have the know how, or the technology, of the Indigenous people. Jamestown residents almost starved to death several times when their boats bearing supplies did not arrive. During their "Starving Time" there is evidence the colonists resorted to cannibalism. The pilgrims could not grow crops in Virginia. Currently agriculture is the largest industry in Virginia easily surpassing any other industry. Without Indigenous Technology, this would not be a viable industry in Virginia.

Slide 7 - The word Jerky comes from the Incan empire. Pemmican is the First Nation's super food.

1. From what word does the word Jerky come from? _____

Slide 8

1. What was the name of the main city in the Mississippian culture? _____

2. How many people lived there? _____

3. What was their main source of food? _____

Slide 10

1. The population of the Iroquois Confederacy was estimated at _____ people.

Slide 11

1. The population of the Aztec Empire was estimated at _____ people.

2. The head city was _____ with a population of _____ people (one of the largest cities in the world at that time).

Slide 13

1. The Mayan population was estimated at _____ people.

Slide 15

1. The population of the Inca Empire was estimated at _____ people.

Slide 19 - Tumbaga - alloy (a combination of two or more elements) of gold and copper which is harder than copper but with a significantly lower melting point than either but still malleable (could be shaped with a hammer)

1. Which element was common in all alloys on this slide? _____

Slide 21 – The Lake Superior Mining Industry is the earliest metal industry in the world. Pre dates the copper age of Europe. Quite literally Europe was still in the Stone Age when early Ojibwa (Anishinaabe) people began mining, and manufacturing, and trading copper implements.

1. Which group of people is credited with the oldest Copper mining industry in the world?

2. How much copper is believed to be mined from the Lake Superior area? _____

Slide 26 - Components of a birch bark canoe: birch bark, cedar for the ribs and gunwales, spruce roots for sewing the seams, and spruce gum for gumming. These components are all commonly found in the boreal forest.

1. From where did the components of the birch bark canoe come from?

_____.

Slides 27-30

To build a Birch Bark Canoe, the engineer had to have knowledge in these Science areas:

Slide 32

1. How many different designs of watercraft are indicated on this slide? _____

Slide 34 - Three hundred years before Europe saw its first suspension bridge, the Incas were spanning longer distances and deeper gorges than anything that the best European engineers, working with stone, were capable of. One of these bridges is still being used today. There were at least two hundred of these bridges throughout the Incan empire

1. Of what did the Inca make their suspension bridges? _____

Slides 35 & 36

1. Identify three types of housing design on these slides? _____

Slide 37

1. Identify three types of clothing on this slide. _____

Slide 38 - Many First Nation groups were master weavers having accomplished every major type of weaving. As well they had learned to develop and use dye sourced from natural organisms and the land.

Slides 41-44 - This is obviously evidence of a scientific culture. They tried different concentrations of materials and observed the results. Because Indigenous People invented the rubber ball as well as the racquet, it is not hard to see that the evolution of almost every sport that depends on a rubber ball or a racquet can be traced to the Indigenous People of North America. Even hockey was based on a native game called shinny that was played on ice prior to colonization.

1. How far back does the use of rubber date? _____
2. Name two sports that have links to Indigenous cultures. _____

Slides 46-56

1. What four main foods are associated with Indigenous culture? _____

2. First Nations developed a farming practice called _____
3. The foods known as the Three Sisters are _____
4. Name three other Indigenous foods from plants other than those mentioned above. _____

Slide 58 - Squanto showed the early colonist how to grow corn in Virginia by placing a fish head with the corn seed. Guano (bird droppings) was also used as a fertilizer.

1. Three sources of nutrients Indigenous People added to the soil for nutrients are _____

Slide 68

What concept was used in Mathematics by the Mayans more than a thousand years before the Western World? _____

Slide 69 - The Maya used precise mathematics and measurements to predict lunar eclipses as well as the movement of Venus and Mars.

1. When did the Myan calendar begin? _____

Slide 74 - Scientists have noted they have not found a single medicinal use of any plant indigenous to North America which was not being used by some Native American group as medicine already. It has been estimated that there are approximately 20,000 plant species in North America and 2,500 of them were being used medicinally by the native people of this land.

In any given locale a traditional Native American healer in the early 20th century would know the identity of between 200 and 300 plants which they could readily distinguish from the 3,000 to 5,000 species which might grow in their area. This is equivalent to what a professional botanist would know.

1. Identify three sources of medicine Indigenous people used. _____

Slides 76 & 77 - Queen Isabella 1 of Spain and King Louis XIV both bragged about having taken only two baths in their lifetime – once at birth and once before marriage. They believed diseases carried through water. Bathing weakened the spirit and allowed diseases to enter body. The British and French, many of whom had not taken a bath in their entire lives, were amazed by the Indian interest in personal hygiene.

Slide 79

1. What did the Indigenous people chew to clean their teeth and to freshen their breath?

2. Indigenous People were the first to invent _____

All of this technology was known to Indigenous People long before the Europeans arrived (pre-contact). This is evidence of a very sophisticated culture, arguably more sophisticated than the Europeans understood it to be.

Identify one of the topics recognized in this slide show that you thought was very interesting and explain why you found it interesting.

