

AMERICAN INDIAN

1540 TO 1890

DE SOTO EXPEDITION TO WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE

ERA SUMMARY – AMERICAN INDIAN

The American Indian unit of Heritage Academy's Early American course is under development. At this time, most study questions about American Indians are interspersed with those of the Colonial Era, Early Republic, and Westward Expansion units. We plan to add additional books on this topic and develop a more comprehensive approach in the future. For the time being, however, we have completed a core reading list, a timeline, and a list of prominent characters.

CHARACTERS – AMERICAN INDIAN

VIRGINIA INDIANS

Pocahontas	1595–1617	Daughter of an Indian Chieftain who helped the early settlers in the Jamestown Colony in Virginia.
Powhatan	d. 1618	Chief of the Powhatan confederacy and father of Pocahontas. Kept an uneasy peace with Jamestown settlers.
Cockacoeskie	d. 1685	Queen of the Pamunkey, following the Powhatan wars, who made an alliance with the Virginia government during Bacon's rebellion.
Opechancanough	1554–1646	Leader of the Powhatan confederacy who led an Indian massacre against Jamestown beginning in 1622, which killed hundreds of white settlers.

NEW ENGLAND INDIANS

Squanto	1580–1622	New England Indian who helped the pilgrims their first year in Plymouth Colony.
Samoset	1590–1653	First American Indian encountered by the Pilgrims at the Plymouth colony.
Massasoit	1581–1661	Indian chief who befriended the pilgrims and lived in peace with them for forty years in Massachusetts.
Hiawatha	~ 1550	Indian leader of Iroquois Indians who was the subject of a famous Longfellow poem.
King Philip	1639–1676	Leader of the Wampanoag who led the first serious uprising against the white settlers in New England.

NORTHWEST (GREAT LAKES) INDIANS

Cornstalk	1720–1777	Indian leader who tried to be neutral during the Revolutionary War, but was murdered.
Pontiac	1720–1769	Leader of a Great Lakes tribe who planned a rebellion. His attempt to take fort Detroit was thwarted by an Indian who warned the garrison.
Chief Logan	1725–1780	Indian chief who was friendly to white settlers until his family was killed. He then warred against the U.S.

- Little Turtle** 1747–1812 Indian chief from the Ohio Valley who first fought against the U.S. but later counseled Peace.
- Tecumseh** 1768–1813 Shawnee Hero. Tried to unify tribes against the colonists. Fought for Britain during War of 1812.

SOUTHEAST INDIANS

- Tuscaloosa** d. 1540 Choctaw Indian chieftain who resisted de Soto at the *Battle of Mauvila*.
- Billy Bowlegs** 1810–1864 Amerindian chief who warred against the United States in the Seminole Wars.
- Osceola** 1804–1838 Half-breed Seminole Warrior who resisted the settlement of Florida.

WESTERN INDIANS

- Black Hawk** 1767–1838 Important Indian chief in the Illinois territory. Inspired the Sauks to resist the Americans during the Black Hawk War.
- Sacajawea** 1787–1812 Indian woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark during their explorations of the Louisiana Purchase.
- Black Kettle** 1801–1868 Cheyenne chief who tried to make peace, but was sabotaged by aggressive acts of his own Indians as well as the white settlers.
- Washakie** 1804–1900 Shoshone Indian War Chief
- Cochise** 1805–1874 Apache Indian War Chief.
- Manuelito** 1818–1893 Navajo Indian War Chief.
- Winnemucca** 1820–1882 Chief of a Piute tribe. First befriended the white settlers, but rebelled when his tribe was mistreated.
- Red Cloud** 1822–1909 Sioux Indian War Chief.
- Geronimo** 1829–1909 Last Apache Warrior to hold out against the U.S. Army. Finally capitulated and became a celebrity.
- Sitting Bull** 1831–1890 Medicine man who organized resistance to U.S. Army. His warriors defeated Custer at Little Bighorn.
- Standing Bear** 1834–1908 Ponca chieftain whose tribe was forcibly removed from their settlement. He later 'sued' the government and won.
- Captain Jack** 1837–1873 Led a tribe of Modocs off the Klamath reservation to their native home, where they held out caves for several months.
- Crazy Horse** 1840–1877 Dakota Indian chief who fought against the American army at *Rosebud* and *Little Big Horn*.
- Chief Joseph** 1840–1904 Led Nez Perces in a resistance against the encroachment of white settlers. Finally surrendered.
- Sarah Winnemucca** 1841–1891 Daughter of Chief Winnemucca. Served as translator between Piutes and U.S. Army. Wrote a book.

TIMELINE – AMERICAN INDIAN

SPANISH CONTACTS IN NORTH AMERICA: 1492-1800

- 1513 [Ponce de Leon](#) makes his first expedition to Florida.
- 1539-41 [Hernando De Soto](#) leads an expedition through the Southeast, discovers the Mississippi.
- 1540-42 [Francisco de Coronado](#) leads a Spanish expedition to New Mexico.

EARLY COLONIES: 1600-1700

- 1608 Pocahontas, daughter of chief Powhatan, saves the life of [John Smith](#).
- 1617 [Pocahontas](#) marries John Rolfe and travels to England.
- 1622 Indian massacre led by the Powhatan Confederacy kills 350 Jamestown colonists.
- 1644 Second Indian massacre of settlers leads to [Powhatan Wars](#) against Virginia tribes.
- 1676 Nathaniel Bacon leads a rebellion because of the governor's failure to protect settlers from Indians.
- 1711-17 [Tuscarora](#) and [Yamasee Wars](#) decimate native tribes in the Carolina colony.
- 1634-38 [Pequot War](#) in Connecticut decimates the Pequot tribe.
- 1675-78 [King Philip's War](#) is the most deadly conflict between Massachusetts settlers and New England tribes.
- ??? [New England Indian Wars](#)

NORTHWEST INDIAN WARS: 1763-1832

- 1775 [Daniel Boone](#)'s family and 50 other settlers settle in Boonesborough, Kentucky.
- 1788 Rufus Putnam founds the first permanent settlement in the Northwest Territories in Marietta, Ohio.
- 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers brings [Indian War in the Northwest Territories](#) to a close.
- 1804-06 [Merriwether Lewis](#) and [William Clark](#) lead an expedition to explore Louisiana Purchase.
- 1811 [Battle of Tippecanoe](#): [William Henry Harrison](#) defeats Shawnees in Indiana Territory.
- 1763-1832 [Northwest Indian Wars](#)

FLORIDA/ALABAMA INDIAN WARS

- 1813-14 [Andrew Jackson](#) fights [Creek Wars](#) in Alabama.
- 1835-38 [Osceola](#) leads [Seminole Rebellion](#) in Florida.

SIoux WARS: 1854-1890

- 1854-1890 [Plains Indian Wars](#)
- 1862 Dakota War drives Santee Sioux out of Minnesota Territory
- 1863-65 [Colorado War](#) devastates Kiowa, Comanche, Arapaho, and Cheyenne tribes of the Rockies.
- 1866-68 Lakota and Cheyenne fight for their tribal lands in [Red Cloud's War](#) in Montana/Wyoming.
- 1876 [General Custer](#)'s army of six hundred whiped out at [Battle of Little Bighorn](#) in Sioux territory.
- 1890 300 Lakota killed at [Wounded Knee Massacre](#), when army attempts to confiscate guns.

WESTERN INDIAN WARS: 1865-1896

1804-06 [Merriwether Lewis](#) and [William Clark](#) expedition.

1840-46 Jesuit Pierre deSmet travels throughout Oregon Territory setting up Indian missions.

1847-1896 [Western Indian Wars](#)

1847 Whitman Massacre kills 14 early settlers in Washington State.

1877 [Nez Perce War](#) led by [Chief Joseph](#)

RECOMMENDED READING – AMERICAN INDIAN

CORE READING ASSIGNMENTS*

Drake - [Indian History for Young Folks](#) *entire book*

SUPPLEMENTAL SELECTIONS

Burton - [Massasoit](#) *entire book*

Eastman - [Indian Heroes](#) *entire book*

Eastman - [Indian Boyhood](#) *entire book*

Perry - [Four American Indians](#) *entire book*

Sabin - [Book of Indian Warriors](#) *entire book*

Sabin - [Book of Border Battles](#) [The Battle of Adobe Walls](#) to [When Ghost Shirts Failed](#) (7)

Sabin - [Book of Frontier Fighters](#) [Hugh Glass and Grizzly Bear](#) to [The Sibley Scout](#) (10)

Abbott - [King Philip](#) *entire book*

Abbott - [Kit Carson](#) *entire book*

Ober - [Ferdinand de Soto](#) [The Landing in Florida](#) to [Last Days of De Soto](#) (14)

Ober - [Ponce de Leon](#) [The Fount of Perennial Youth](#) to [Juan Ponce's Last Campaign](#) (8)

Grinnell - [Trails of the Pathfinders](#) *entire book*

Schultz - [Bird Woman](#) *entire book*

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Grinnell - [Blackfeet Indian Stories](#) *entire book*

Grinnell - [When Buffalo Ran](#) *entire book*

Howard - [Famous Indian Chiefs I Have Known](#) *entire book*

Hudson - [Missions of California](#) *entire book*

Eastman - [The Soul of the Indian](#) *entire book*

Fitch - [Junipero Serra](#) *entire book*

*Level I and II Study Questions are based on **Core Reading Assignments**.