

# DBQ: Indigenous North America Before 1500

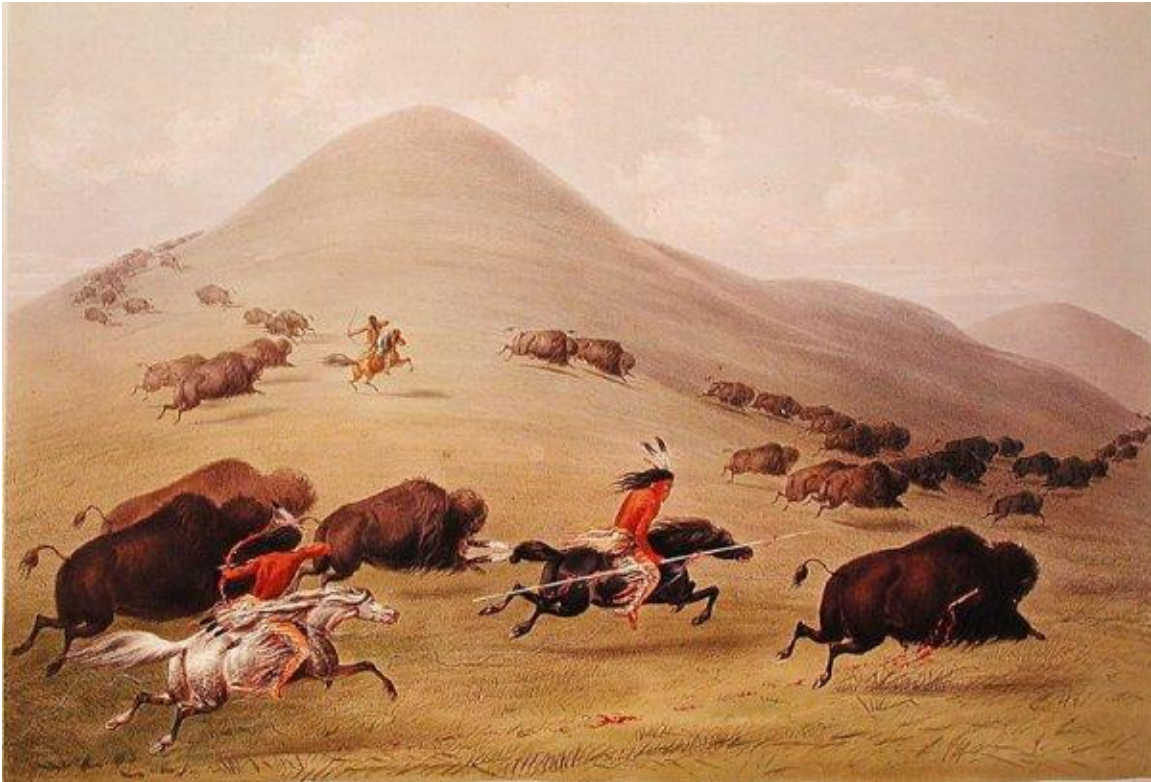
## How Did Environment Shape Indigenous Cultures?

### Student Task

Review the following images and documents and answer the questions in each section.

### Document A: Great Plains – Buffalo Hunt

This image shows Indigenous peoples of the Great Plains hunting buffalo.



Source: Painting by George Catlin (Public Domain via Smithsonian American Art Museum)

Questions:

1. What natural resources are shown?

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2. How did the Plains environment shape this lifestyle?

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## Document B: Iroquois Oral Tradition

“The Three Sisters—corn, beans, and squash—grew together as sisters...”



Image: © 2026 Cronos Creek Media

Questions:

1. What does this teach about farming?

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2. How does the environment support this?

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## Document C: Arctic Survival

This image shows Arctic Indigenous adaptations.



Source: Historical photographs (Public Domain via Library of Congress)

Questions:

1. What challenges does this environment present?

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2. How did people adapt?

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## Document D: Pueblo Housing

This image shows cliff dwellings in the Southwest.



Source: Mesa Verde cliff dwellings (Public Domain via National Park Service)

Questions:

1. Why build homes this way?

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2. What does this suggest about the environment?

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## Document E: Pacific Northwest Oral Tradition

“The salmon return each year...”



Image: © 2026 Cronos Creek Media

Questions:

1. What role does salmon play?

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2. How does the environment support this way of life?

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