

Build a World Before 1500

Unit 1 Project: Indigenous North America Before European Contact

Project Overview

You will create a hands-on project that brings to life one region of Indigenous North America before the year 1500. Your goal is to show how people lived, adapted, and thrived in their environment.

Step 1: Choose a Region

- Eastern Woodlands
- Great Plains
- Southwest
- Pacific Coast
- Arctic / Subarctic

Step 2: Create a Map

- Title
- Region location (clearly outlined)
- Major landforms (rivers, mountains, plains, etc.)
- Climate (use symbols or labels)
- Natural resources
- At least 2 cultural groups/tribes

Step 3: Build a Diorama

- Environment (forest, desert, plains, etc.)
- Shelter type (longhouse, tipi, pueblo, etc.)
- At least one daily life activity (hunting, farming, fishing, gathering)

Step 4: Cultural Art Piece

- Totem pole design
- Pottery
- Clothing or beadwork design
- Symbolic artwork of beliefs
- Story panel

Include a short explanation of what your piece represents.

Step 5: Presentation (7–8 minutes)

- Where your region is located
- How people lived
- How geography shaped life
- What people valued or believed

Requirements Summary

- Map
- Diorama
- Cultural Art Piece
- Presentation