

**Stratford Public Schools Social Studies Curriculum  
Grade 4 - Unit 2**

**Unit Name: Native Americans / Exploration and Colonization of the United States**  
**Est. # of Lessons: 18**

**Synopsis:** Students will learn about Native American cultures in the United States. They will study how Europeans explored and colonized the United States and how they interacted with the Native Americans.

**STUDENT LEARNING GOALS**

**Content-Specific Powered Standards**

**Knowledge of concepts and information from history and social studies is necessary to promote understanding of our nation and our world**

- 1.1 – Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in United States history.
- 1.5 – Describe the interaction of humans and the environment.
- 1.1 – Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in United States history.
- 1.12 – Understand the interdependence of local, national, and global economies.
- 1. 3 – Demonstrate an understanding of significant events and themes in world history.
- 1.11 – Know how different economic systems organize resources.

**Competence in literacy, inquiry and research skills is necessary to analyze, evaluate and present history and social studies information**

- 2.4 – Demonstrate ability to participate in social studies discourse through informed discussion, debate and effective oral presentation.

**Civic competence in addressing historical issues and current problems requires the use of information, skills and empathic awareness**

- 3.2 – Analyze and evaluate human action in historical and/or contemporary contexts from alternative points of view.

**Interdisciplinary Standards (as appropriate)**

**Key Vocabulary**

Culture, tradition, natural resource, environment, trade, barter, manufactured goods, explore, pilgrim, colonize

**Enduring Understandings**

- Native American tribes vary in culture and traditions.
- Native Americans valued and respectfully used the natural resources surrounding them.
- Conflicts and change occur when peoples settle in new areas.

**Essential Questions**

- What are some of the Native American tribes and how are their cultures and traditions different?
- What role did environment play in the life of Native Americans?
- How did the European exploration and colonization affect both the native people and the colonists?

## Learning Objectives / Grade Level Expectations

*Students will:*

- Compare and contrast the cultures and traditions of American Indian peoples. (GLE#1)
- Explain the relationship between environment and the way of life of American Indians. (GLE#10)
- Compare and contrast the impact of exploration and colonization on both native peoples and the colonists. (GLE#2)
- Analyze how trade among colonists and with American Indians affected each group. (GLE#21)
- Explain the influences that contributed to European exploration and colonization. (GLE#5)
- Compare and contrast barter and cash exchanges. (GLE#20)
- Respond appropriately in a discussion, both listening and participating, with relevant information and/or questions. (GLE#28)
- Orally present information and answer questions about a social studies topic. (GLE#29)
- Cite evidence to explain the various feelings/points of view of people in a historical situation. (GLE#32)

## ASSESSMENT PLAN

### Summative Assessment(s)

- Jigsaw project in which class is divided into groups. Each group is assigned a tribe from one region of the United States. Students report on natural resources, type of housing, food, transportation, and the arts. Each member of the group should have a job to do.
- Independent Project:  
Compare and contrast two tribes from Connecticut. Use a Venn diagram for planning. Write 2-3 paragraphs telling how the tribes are similar and how they are different. (see writing rubric)

### Formative and Diagnostic Assessment(s)

Classroom discussions  
Student work  
KWL chart on Native Americans