

Summary: People of the East

First Peoples

American Indians have lived in the East for thousands of years. Each group's culture was affected by climate and natural resources. Indian nations used resources differently. The Haudenosaunee, who are also called the Iroquois, built houses, tools, weapons, and canoes with wood from the forests. In the north, the growing season was short, so the Micmac hunted for food. Further south, the growing season was longer. The Lenni Lenape grew corn and tobacco. They farmed in the summer and hunted in the winter. Today, American Indians in the East have a modern lifestyle, but preserve their culture.

Colonies and Traders

Explorers from Europe came to North America in the 1500s. In the 1600s, Pilgrims and Puritans came to practice their religion freely. England started colonies in the East along the coast. The Dutch settled in the Hudson River Valley. Along the St. Lawrence River, the French traded pots, cloth, and tools for furs from the Indians.

More Europeans came. They built towns and farms. They forced the Indians from most of their land. By the late 1700s, many American colonists wanted to be free from England. They fought the British and won independence. The new nation's constitution provided a written plan for the country's new government. Europeans had brought captives from Africa to the Americas and enslaved them. Most enslaved Africans worked in the South. Some traders in the East grew rich from this business of slavery. Ship building was another important business.

Factories and Workers

By the end of the 1700s, new inventions changed life for workers. A new spinning machine and power loom helped make the textile industry grow. Many young women came from farms to work in the textile industry. Cities grew as immigration increased. In the late 1800s, millions of people fled war and poverty in Europe and came to find jobs in American factories. Many African Americans also moved north to work in factories.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

culture *noun*, the way of life of a particular group of people, including beliefs and values

constitution *noun*, a plan for setting up and running a government

slavery *adjective*, an unjust system in which one person owns another

industry *noun*, a business that makes goods in factories

immigration *noun*, the movement from one nation to another



After You Read

REVIEW How did climate and natural resources affect American Indian cultures in the past? Draw a box around sentences that tell how Indians lived.

REVIEW In what ways did the East change after Europeans arrived?

Underline the sentence that tells how the Europeans affected the Indians who lived there.

REVIEW What caused many immigrants to come to the United States in the late 1800s? Highlight the sentence that tells why people left Europe and came to America.