Native Americans keep their past alive in different ways. Read on to learn more about Native American life long ago.
Native American Life Long Ago

Native Americans used **resources** that were easy to find in their regions. Resources are useful things that come from nature, such as berries for food or trees for building homes.

**Clothing**

Many Native Americans made their clothing from the skin or fur of animals. Deerskin was one of the most popular clothing materials in North America. **Inuit** people, from the Arctic, wore warm coats made of sealskin or caribou fur.

**Beliefs**

Each group of Native Americans had its own special beliefs. Many groups made carvings to show their beliefs. Native Americans from the Northwest made wooden carvings, called **totem poles**, from the large trees that grew there.

**Food**

Native Americans ate different foods depending on where they lived. Some hunted and fished for food. Others, like those in the Southwest, made their food. Here, bread made from cornmeal was baked in clay ovens.
Shelter

Native Americans in North America lived in different types of homes. In the Great Plains, they made cone-shaped homes called **tepees**. People covered the tepees with tree bark or animal skin.

**Goods**

Many Native Americans made baskets and pottery for storage. In the Northeast, people made baskets from resources such as grass and branches. They used the baskets to store food and tools.
“Native American” Questions

1. In the sentence, “Native Americans lived in different *types* of homes”, which word means the same as *types*?
   a. sizes  
   b. kinds  
   c. colors  
   d. handwriting

2. The author says that Native Americans “made baskets from resources such as plants and branches”. This shows
   a. that Native Americans did not know how to make strong baskets.  
   b. that Native Americans were very creative with materials from nature.  
   c. that Native Americans had a lot of free time for arts and crafts.  
   d. All of the above.

3. Native Americans made their clothing out of fur and skin from animals. This shows us that Native Americans
   a. used many parts of animals they hunted.  
   b. Native Americans did not waste much of the animals they hunted.  
   c. were successful hunters.  
   d. All of the above.

4. The author includes a map in the article to
   a. get the reader interested in North America.  
   b. show the reader where Native Americans lived in the past.  
   c. show the reader where Native Americans live today.  
   d. teach the reader how to use a map.

5. Based on the information you learned from the article, how would you describe Native Americans from the past?

   ___________________________________________________  
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   ___________________________________________________  

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“Native American” Answer Sheet

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   Answers will vary but may include that they were respectful to the Earth and used resources for survival. They had many different beliefs and lived differently based on the region in which they lived.

Additional Suggested Vocabulary: caribou, Great Plains, pottery