



Základní škola sv. Voršily v Olomouci
Aksamitova 6, 772 00 Olomouc

The American Indians

Absolventská práce

Autorky: Klára Kvapilová, Veronika Homolová

Třída: IX

Vedoucí práce: Mgr. Šárka Chlupová

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1. INTRODUCTION

Who were the indians?

In 1492, an Italian navigator named Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain in search of a sea route to Asia. Columbus hoped to obtain access to the wealth of spices, silks and gold for which the Asian continent was famous. Six weeks later, his men sighted land. Thinking he had landed in the Indies, a group of island east of the coast of Asia, he called the people on the first island on which he landed "los Indios" or, in English, "Indians." Of course, Columbus had not reached Asia at all. He had landed in the New World (the American continent). But the name "Indians" remains fixed in the English language. Though Columbus had one name for them, the Indians comprised many groups of people. The Indians north of Mexico in what is now the United States and Canada spoke over 300 languages. And they lived scattered across the continent in small bands or groups of bands called tribes. To them, the continent was hardly new. Their ancestors had been living there for perhaps 30,000 years.

2. CHAPTER 1 – LIVING

FAMILY

Nearly all indians got married in half of adolescence. Future partners for young people often chose their parents, but boys had also some freedom in it. When there was communion between them and boy gave some present to girl, or he sang song for her, both family tried met with second family a be friends. For example: girl mixed maize in front of house of her darling or she knit scuttle. In the meantime future husband went to visit wife's family. Because it wasn't wedding between two people, but between two family. And when both family were satisfied, weddind could be.

It was a routine-young marrieds lived at wife's family. Young husband came in family business or in economy. Often his workload was catching dinner. Sure, he met his family, but their children became be a children from wife's family. Wife continued with cultivation, collection plants, cooking and needlework. After small baby was born, they sometimes moved house, but mostly they stood at relativem.



FOOD

It is said, that kitchen is merits of house. We can say it also about indians, because they everybody were near fair, while the dinner was cooked. Content of pot was different accordingly where tribe lived. Some indians ate mostly fis hor meat, other indians ate maize, been and paste with meat. Most of indians

specialized to searching rootlets, berry and plants.

Food was sometimes prepared outside upon fair. Meat and vegetables were dried a konzervated, because it had to be reserves to „wrong“ time.

Fishing

Tribes, which lived near water, was interested in food with flippers. They used spears, harpoons, plaited trap, hooks and fishing lines. In fishing basket, there also often were clams, fallows and turtle. Most of tribes preferred night fishing. Cresset's light allured fish. The most coveted fish in north was „koruška“ with extra bold meat. Its oil was used for good taste of food.

Prosecution

If you can't imagine fish without chips, don't worry. Potatoes (such as tomatoes, red peppers, melons, sweet potatoes and pea-nut)-they didn't miss it. Three the best plants were maize, beans and marrow. Cultivate this plants was easy, they were delicious, nutritious. In mostly tribes prosecution was work for women, but in some tribes, it was work for men. It was hard work-they had only wooden spades and stone or bone mattocks. Crop was reaped by hand. All tribes cultivated snuff, because it had use everywhere.

Collection feed

Land gave for indians big crop-berries, nuts, rootlets, bulbs, seeds and corn. Some tribes had as food only what they found it in day. Indians, which lived in dry areas, they searched water in bases of trees. They knew all plants-their campaign and place, so they always were successful. And because they knew natural cycles, they were able found enough feed and they could continue with walk.

LIFE IN TEE-PEE

If indians stalked they lived in a tee-pee, conical tent, coated leather. Skeleton was formed from twenty tall rods, which were bound up. For „roof“ they

needed buffalo robe. Making buffalo robe to tee-pee was very difficult. Indians painted it by powdered bison's brain for softy leather. There were two smoky lapels, which were such as „chimney“. Inside, there were, next to wall, beds. Clothes and food were hidden in bags-„parfleše“. Again inside was next to wall fixed enclosure, which was long as adult person. It helped to keep dryness and it gave privacy.

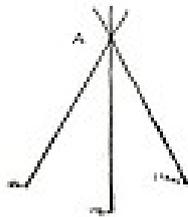
We have scout camp and there we sleep in a tee-pee. It is amazing experience for me and I like it very much. Of course, it isn't same as at indians, but it is very similar.



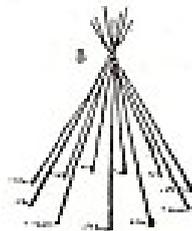
How to build tee-pee

TEEE-PEE

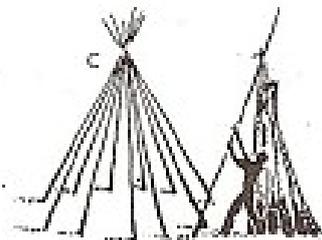
SETTING UP THE TEEPEE



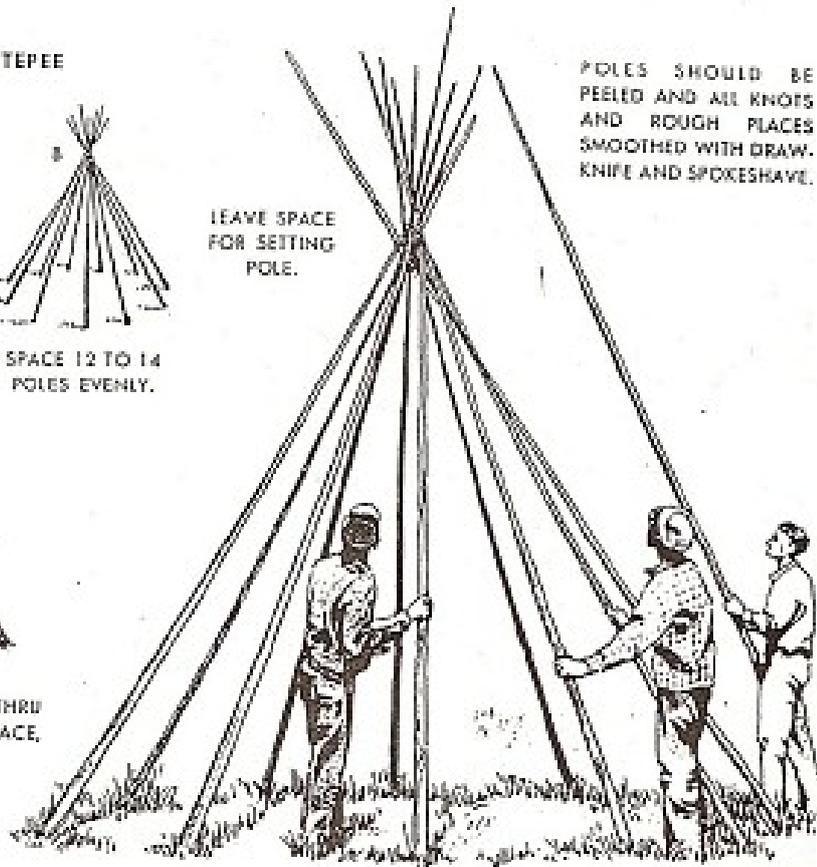
TIE TRIPOD AND SET UP.



SPACE 12 TO 14 POLES EVENLY.

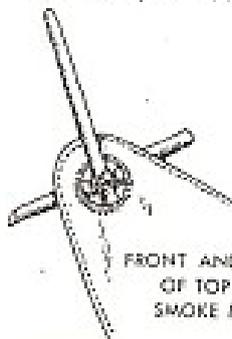


TIE COVER TO SETTING POLE THRU EYE (B) (PP. 104-5). HOIST IN PLACE, ARRANGE, AND LACE.

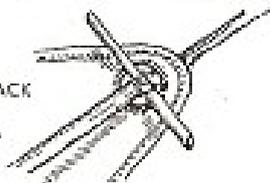


LEAVE SPACE FOR SETTING POLE.

POLES SHOULD BE PEELED AND ALL KNOTS AND ROUGH PLACES SMOOTHED WITH DRAW-KNIFE AND SPOKESHAVE.

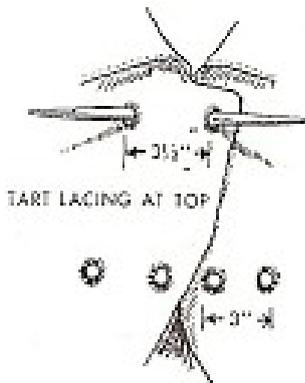


FRONT AND BACK OF TOP OF SMOKE FLAP



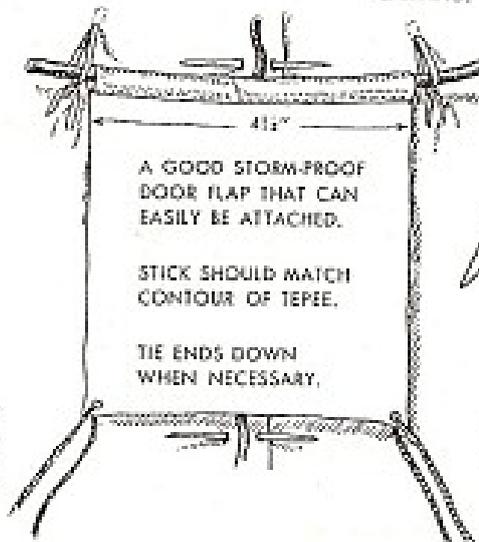
KEEP THE TOP, WHERE THE POLES CROSS, AS NARROW AS POSSIBLE. YOUR TEEPEE COVER WILL NOT FIT PROPERLY IF POLES ARE TOO THICK.

BLACKFOOT TENT PEGS ARE 12 TO 14" LONG, MADE OF BIRCH OR WILD CHERRY WITH BARK CARVING.



TART LACING AT TOP

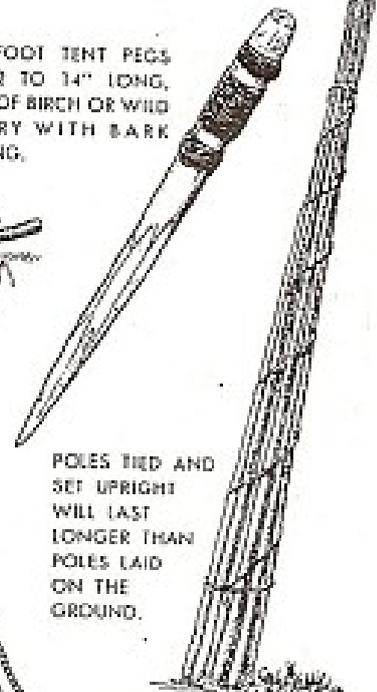
AFTER FRONT IS LACED, STEP INSIDE AND ADJUST AND RESET POKES SO THAT THE COVER FITS SNUG ALL THE WAY AROUND. WRINKLES AND FOLDS CATCH RAIN WATER.



A GOOD STORM-PROOF DOOR FLAP THAT CAN EASILY BE ATTACHED.

STICK SHOULD MATCH CONTOUR OF TEEPEE.

TIE ENDS DOWN WHEN NECESSARY.

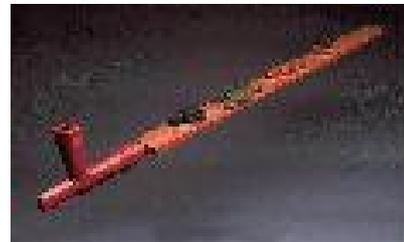


POLES TIED AND SET UPRIGHT WILL LAST LONGER THAN POLES LAID ON THE GROUND.

INTERESTS

Indian pipe

Pipe is sacred for Indians. They smoke it in all the sacred rituals and ritual occasions such as during the sudatory hut's ceremony, search vision or Sun Dance. Contracts and agreements are concluded through the pipe. For Indians, smoking „something“ is on the same basis as for Caucasians signing of a contract in the presence of a notary. Young couples are indulged by the pipe, promises are confirmed or new names are granted. Agreements, which are sanctified by pipe, can not be violated, because they are sanctified by Big Spirit. Heads of pipes constitute female elements—Earth, because it comes from Mother of Earth, there everything alive walks. Heads of catlinite pipes are red, and red is the color of the earth. Wooden shanks epitomize male elements, and all the trees and species. If a pipe is ornate by the quill of an eagle, it constitutes all birds. Fur constitutes all animals, which are on earth. Snuff, which is smoked, is representative of plants and herbs. Carbon, which pipes spark, constitutes fire and salivas of persons are representative of water.



Writing

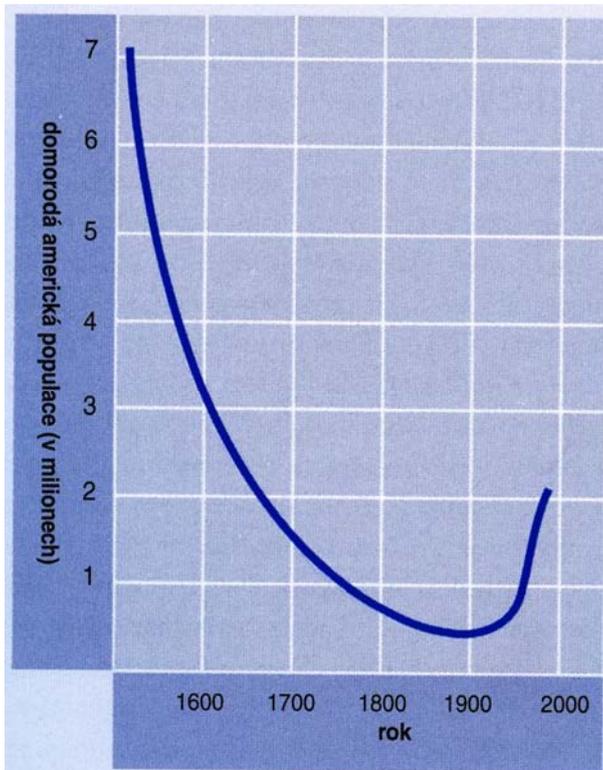
In native America, there wasn't long time to write language. Tribes recorded stories and events by pictures drawn on crust or on animal leather. Of course, these pictures couldn't say everything, but for Indians it was acceptable. In 19th century farmer (Cherokee) named Sequoyah invented writing with eighty-six symbols. Cherokee people adopted this writing in short time and they were able to write acts and legends. Sequoyah's system took over also next tribes.

3. CHAPTER 2 – PRESENT

Today is primary reality for indians, that they have bad condition for life. Almost all indians had to go out from their style of life and in very very short time they had to conform to our style of life and work. And we can say, that it is achievement-they are still able to live, because it was, sure, very hard.

STATISTIC

Statistics can show us, that indians dying-cul was stoped (when breaking point was outdone in 20th century) and number of indians population increases. Indians live like other people. They go on civilian clothes, go to work and they have family too. Sometimes they encountered on some of their actions. In 1955 there were over 150 000 indians, without half-breeds and asimil families, because they didn't count with them.



This graph show us vehement fall in indians population-South America but also vehement rise in 20th century.

In 1500 it is estimated about over seven milion population.

4. CHAPTER 3 – ARTICLES

LaDonna Fowler

I am registered in the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in northeastern Montana, but now I live in the Flathead reservation. Predecessor of my father comes from the tribe Assiniboin and Siúx; mother was from the tribe of mountain Čipevaj. I was born as the youngest of eleven children and now live three sisters and my two brothers.

Currently I'm working for the Rural Institute on Disabilities (Regional Institute for the disabled) at the University of Montana. I am a director of two programs designed for the original inhabitants of America - American indians. Both programmes addressing the issue of disability.

Josef Kvapil

Meeting with South-American Indians

In year 2002 I attended trip to Brazil. Some a few days we were in state Amazona. The capital city is situated on river Rio Negro. It is accessible only by boat or by plane, because in jungle, there isn't any way. There live about 1,5 milion people. Rio Negro is 28 km long and 100m deep. Its water is really black, because it contain very much acid component-they gesticulate wood and leaves so for this i tis black. River is very hot and pleasant for swimming. And it empty oneself into Amazonia.

We arrived to Manaus by plane, and than we sail some hours to Ariaú Amazon Towers. It's camp, which look like hotel. It built Dr. Francisco Ritta Bernardino in 1987. Projects aim is make possible to people from whole world be in the middle of jungle in comfort and security and put near them unique ecosysteme of amazon forest.

Camp is build on wooden posts upon boggy seaside of river Rio Negro. It is system wooden cottages, there are wooden pavement. Pavement are many km long, up on high 2-5 meters.

One evenig, we went visit some indian tribe. We sailed in a simple canoes about 2 hours. Because style of their life must be conversed, we didn't know name of tribe, names of people and not even situation of village. Visites are possible only with attendant and at night. This tribe was expellee from Venezuela 3 years ago, because on this place was found gold. This people get chance-they could remove to simple „world“ where they lived. They get land gratis for building village. In exchange they had to promise, they will promenade dance and ritulas gratis for visters.

So, we landed in darkness and we went to big „barn“, which was made of wood and reed. Darkness was irradiate only by cresset and sometimes lightning of camera. Then we traced some dances, which were accompanied by drums and singing. The first I was in shock, because the poeple and their performance were so natural and usual, so I thought it is attraction. But then I understood we are in reality not so far stone age. It was really small tribe. Men and women were envelopment only on osphus.They had usual palls from reed just gently decorated. Children and young people were naked. Dance, melody, words and its atuhors-real illiberal indians. All was so plain, usual, natural and „naive“. I felt great honour to this people. They were glad, calm, steady and peaceful. I think, they were happy. I thank God for this meeting. I'm quiet grateful for it. I didn't undestood their language, but I knew they understand to life in primitive style. They see, hear and feel, what natural really is and what it bring to us.

After performance, they entertain us usual drink and boiled cayman. It tasted excellent. Also, they offered us some usual products. I bought vase from coconut and cloth from reed-from this palls are made than.

This meeting was something, what kept Amazony experience in me and I

never forget on it...

5. FINISH

We would like to write, Indians are very very interesting nation, and it is unfair every freedom was confiscated, because they are same people as other, aren't they?

We think, we learned nwe things and even thought it was very hard, write project in english, we are fine, we chose it

6. LITERATURE

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2. ŠOLC, Václav. *Indiánské historie*. 1. vyd. Praha, Spirála 1997.
3. HOLZBACHOVÁ, Mira. *Amerika země Indiánů*. 4. vyd. Praha, Panorama 1980.
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7. RESUMÉ

We made work about American Indians. About history, their life, their style of life, style of feed, about present-now they have bad conditions for life. Nowadays they live in different way. They live in big cities, in houses and they go to school and work like ordinary people. There is only a few indians who live their traditional life.

There are two articles-one about indian, who lives now like other people and one from Josef Kvapil, who were at south-indians.