



ANCIENT ORIGINS

RECONSTRUCTING THE STORY OF HUMANITY'S PAST



AD



HELP UKRAINIANS DEFEND THEMSELVES

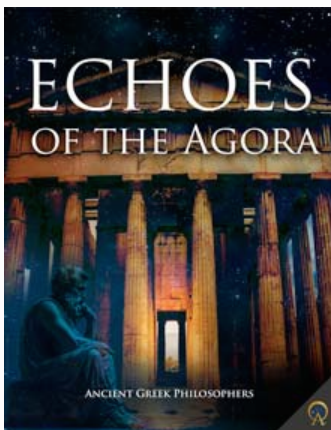
Search across 12,000+ articles



NEWS ORIGINS HISTORY ARTIFACTS MYTHS PLACES UNEXPLAINED WEIRD FACTS PREMIUM

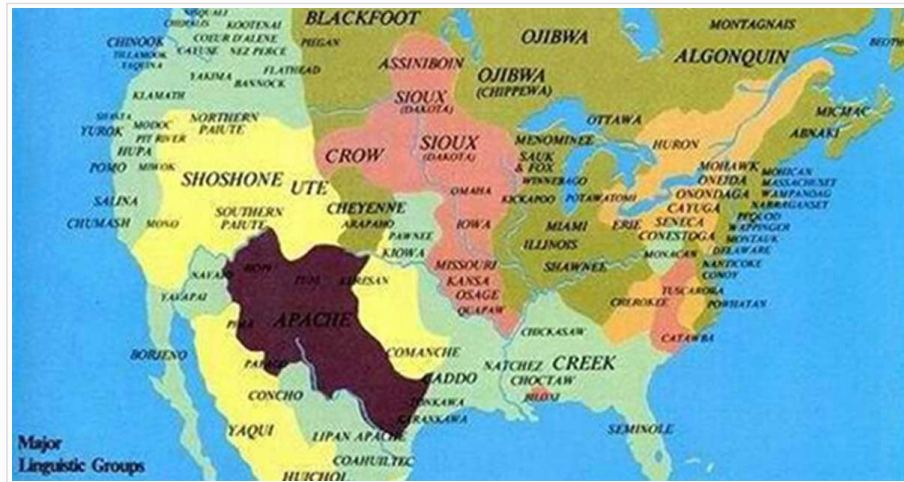
General History & Archaeology Science & Space Evolution & Human Origins Mysterious Phenomena

Sign Up for Premium
Ads-FREE Content



ACTIVE FORUM TOPICS

- [Best Books on Comparative Mythology and Folklore](#)



UPDATED 20 JANUARY, 2017 - 19:17 APRILHOLLOWAY

Why Isn't This Map in the History Books?

[READ LATER](#) [PRINT](#)

By the age of 10, most children in the United States have been taught all 50 states that make up the country. But centuries ago, the land that is now the United States was a very different place. Over 20 million Native Americans dispersed across over 1,000 distinct tribes, bands, and ethnic groups populated the territory. Today, Native Americans account for just 1.5 percent of the population, and much of their history has been lost, particularly as today's education system is sadly lacking when it comes to teaching the rich and complex history of the United States. Here we examine little-known facts about Native Americans, which should be included in every history book.

Tribes

As of January, 2016, there are 566 legally recognized Native American tribes in the United

- [Pyramid technology vs ITER](#)
- [Archimedes Mirrors, modern research](#)
- [Please introduce yourself](#)
- [Which Culture Sparks Your Curiosity?](#)
- [What did the Egyptians think of Cleopatra?](#)

[More](#)


GREEK MYTHOLOGY



NORSE MYTHOLOGY

ANCIENT EGYPT

ANCIENT ROME

States, as determined by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Prior to European contact, there were over 1,000 tribes, bands or clans, but sadly, some were completely extinguished as a result of disease epidemics or war.

Today, there is not a single accurate historical map that reflects the location of Native American tribes in North America in a single time period, as the post-European contact situation was ever changing, with contact occurring at different times in different areas.

- [Did a Native American travel with the Vikings and arrive in Iceland centuries before Columbus set sail?](#)
- [Mystery of Kennewick Man Identity Finally Solved - DNA is Native American](#)

From the 16th through the 19th centuries, the population of Native Americans sharply declined from approximately 20 million, to a low of 250,000. Today, there are approximately 2.9 million Native Americans in North America.

As of 2000, the largest groups in the United States by population were Navajo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Sioux, Chippewa, Apache, Blackfeet, Iroquois, and Pueblo.

Tribes of the Indian Nation. (Emerson Kent)

Regions

Native American tribes in the United States are typically divided into 8 distinct regions, within which tribes had some similarities across culture, language, religion, customs and politics.

Northwest Coast – Native Americans here had no need to farm as edible plants and animals were plentiful in the land and sea. They are known for their totem poles, canoes that could hold up to 50 people, and houses made of cedar planks.

California – Over 100 Native American tribes once lived there. They fished, hunted small game, and gathered acorns, which were pounded into a mushy meal.

The Plateau - The Plateau Native Americans lived in the area between Cascade Mountains and the Rocky Mountains. To protect themselves from the cold weather, many built homes that were partly underground.

The Great Basin – Stretching across Nevada, Utah, and Colorado, the Native Americans of the Great Basin had to endure a hot and dry climate and had to dig for a lot of their food. They were one of the last groups to have contact with Europeans.

- **Mysteries of the Native American Medicine Wheel – Healing, Rituals, and Astronomical Aid**
- **Genes of 92 prehistoric Native Americans give further evidence of a terrible holocaust**

The Southwest – The Natives of the Southwest created tiered homes made out of adobe bricks. Many of the tribes had skilled farmers, grew crops, and created irrigation canals. Famous tribes here include the Navajo Nation, the Apache, and the Pueblo Indians.

The Plains – The Great Plains Indians were known for hunting bison, buffalo and antelope, which provided abundant food. They were nomadic people who lived in teepees and they moved constantly following the herds.

Northeast - The Native Americans of the Northeast lived in an area rich in rivers and forests. Some groups were constantly on the move while others built permanent homes.

The Southeast – The majority of the Native American tribes here were skilled farmers and tended to stay in one place. The largest Native American tribe, the Cherokee, lived in the Southeast.

ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

SUGGESTED BOOKS



*Native American indigenous cultures map by **Paul Mirocha**.*

Languages

It is estimated that there were around one thousand languages spoken in the Americas before the arrival of the Europeans.

Today, there are approximately 296 indigenous languages across North America. 269 of them are grouped into 29 families, while the remaining 28 languages are isolates or unclassified.

None of the native languages of North America had a writing system. However, the spoken languages were neither primitive nor simple. Many had grammar systems as complex as those of Russian and Latin.

There was (and is) enormous variety between the languages. Individuals from clans or tribes just one hundred miles apart may have been completely unable to communicate by speech. Neighboring tribes often used a form of sign language to communicate with each other.

- **Native Americans revive squash from seeds found in an 800-year-old pot**
- **Be Wary of the Wendigo: A Terrifying Beast of Native American Legend with an Insatiable Hunger to Devour Mankind**

According to UNESCO, most of the indigenous languages in North America are critically endangered, and many are already extinct.

In the United States, the Navajo language is the most spoken Native American language, with more than 200,000 speakers in the Southwestern United States.

Only 8 Native American languages in the United States have a population of speakers large enough to populate a medium-sized town. These are Navajo, Cree, Ojibwa, Cherokee, Dakota, Apache, Blackfoot and Choctaw.

Less than 20 Native American languages in the United States are projected to survive another 100 years.



Native American tribe language map. (flickr)

Top image: Native American tribe language map. (flickr)

By **April Holloway**

References



Section: **News** **Ancient Places** **Americas** **History**

Tags: **Native American** **population** **culture** **indigenous** **Map** **tribes** **Language** **History**

[Read the Comments](#) (20 Comments)

APRIL

*April Holloway is a Co-Owner, Editor and Writer of Ancient Origins. For privacy reasons, she has previously written on Ancient Origins under the pen name April Holloway, but is now choosing to use her real name, **Joanna Gillan**.*

Joanna... [Read More](#)

RELATED ARTICLES ON ANCIENT-ORIGINS

9 SEPTEMBER, 2023 - 21:46 JOANNA GILLAN

The Great Serpent Mound of Ohio, the Largest Earthen Effigy in the World

The Great Serpent Mound is a 1,300-foot (396 m) long and 3-foot (91 cm) high prehistoric effigy mound located on a plateau of a crater along Ohio Brush Creek in Adams County, Ohio, and is the largest...


[READ LATER](#)
[READ MORE](#)

1 SEPTEMBER, 2023 - 17:00 ROBBIE MITCHELL

Wisdom in Every Step: Tracing the History of Snowshoes (Video)

Bill Mackowski, a snowshoe craftsman and collector, has assembled an extraordinary collection of over 200 pairs. These snowshoes, each with a unique tale, hold cultural and practical significance...

[READ LATER](#)
[READ MORE](#)

25 AUGUST, 2023 - 18:57 ROBBIE MITCHELL

Ancient Purification Rituals: Exploring Cleansing and Spiritual Renewal

Throughout history cultures from around the world have recognized the importance of purification rituals to cleanse and renew the body, mind, and spirit. These ancient practices were deeply embedded...

[READ LATER](#)
[READ MORE](#)

30 JULY, 2023 - 21:03 JOANNA GILLAN

The Ancient Religion of the Columbia River (Video)

The Columbia River has played an indispensable role in the lives of Native American communities for thousands of years, serving not only as a source of sustenance but also as a spiritual and cultural...

[READ LATER](#)
[READ MORE](#)

23 JUNE, 2023 - 14:59 JOANNA GILLAN

How DNA Analysis Ended Scientific Disputes in the Case of the Kennewick Man

Back in 1996, two young men stumbled across a human skull submerged in the Columbian River, situated in Kennewick, Washington. Now known as the Kennewick Man, this remarkable discovery swiftly...

16 MAY, 2023 - 20:58 ROBBIE MITCHELL

Apache Girls Face Tests of Endurance in Rite of Passage (Video)

The Mescalero Apache reservation in New Mexico holds a time-honored rite of passage for its young girls every Fourth of July. The four-day ritual involves a series of tests that challenge the girls'...

READ LATER

READ MORE

READ LATER

READ MORE

Ancient Origins has been quoted by:



Smithsonian



theguardian



THE TIMES

The New York Times

The Washington Post



DER SPIEGEL



GREEK MYTHOLOGY

FAMOUS PEOPLE

UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA



Greek Mythology

As Greek mythology goes, the universe was once a big soup of nothingness. Then, two things happened: either Chaos or Gaia created the universe as we know it, or Ouranos and Tethys gave birth to the first beings.

Top 10 Royal Scandals That Left Society Aghast

Throughout history, royal families were often the image of the nations they ruled over. They were expected to conduct themselves with grace and dignity, to be shrewd and capable monarchs, and to lead their people to victory and prosperity.

1,300-Year-Old Fortress Ruins on Siberian Lake Mystifies Experts

It is one of the most mysterious archaeological sites in Russia – an ancient complex engulfing a small island in the center of a remote lake in the mountains of southern Siberia.

Is The Real Location of the Ancient Underworld Right in Front of Us?

- The Ancient Greeks Became Fascinated with Ancient Egypt (Video)
- Hephaestus And Thetis Bound In Their Mortal Suffering
- Unearthed 'Tomb of Cerberus' Features Pristine Frescoes from Ancient Roman Era
- Why is the Sphinx Considered a Guardian Figure? (Video)

44 BC was a Terrible Year for Cleopatra and Egypt (Video)

- 7 Ancient Love Stories That Shook the World
- How the British Monarchy Has Survived for So Long (Video)
- How Charles II of Spain's Inbreeding Plunged Europe Into War (Video)
- More Than a Founder, Marcus Furius Camillus Was an Exemplar of Roman Virtue

What Was an Ancient Chinese Palace Doing in the Enemy Territory of Siberia?

- The Hanging Pillar of Lepakshi Defies Gravity in Indian Temple
- 9 Mysterious Undeciphered Codes and Inscriptions in History
- Chariots of The Gods, Ships in The Sky: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena of the Past
- Scientists Find 'Weirdly Unfamiliar Golden Orb' on Alaska Sea Floor

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Top 10 Royal Scandals That Left Society Aghast

Throughout history, royal families were often the image of the nations they ruled over. They were expected to conduct themselves with grace and dignity, to be shrewd and capable monarchs, and to lead their people to victory and prosperity.

44 BC was a Terrible Year for Cleopatra and Egypt (Video)

How One Man Stood His Ground Against Mt. Vesuvius (Video)

Is This the Reason Ireland Converted to Christianity? (Video)

Can Tree Rings Explain the Demise of a Lost Civilization? (Video)

The Nativity Story's Timeless Message from Ancient Writings to Modern Day

TOP NEW STORIES

Italy's Battle of the Oranges Signifies a Maiden's Revenge Against Her Lord

When one thinks of battles, the imagery that comes to mind usually involves swords, shields, and soldiers. But in a small town in Northern Italy, the weapon of choice is... oranges?

Rebuilding an Ancient Egyptian Statue is a Huge Challenge (Video)

Top 10 Royal Scandals That Left Society Aghast

This Swedish King Built a Warship That Redefined Naval Combat (Video)

Woman Who Lived in Spain 4,500 Years Ago Survived Two Radical Head Surgeries

HUMAN ORIGINS

The Gristhorpe Man: A Bronze Age Skeleton with a Story to Tell

On July 10, 1834, William Beswick excavated a barrow on his land in Gristhorpe, North Yorkshire, England.

Research Confirms That 20% of the Neanderthal Genome Can Be Found In Modern Humans

Is The Real Location of the Ancient Underworld Right in Front of Us?

Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories and the Creation Myths of Australia

10 Most Fearsome Gods in Ancient Mythology

ANCIENT PLACES

More than a Dozen Mysterious Prehistoric Tunnels in Cornwall, England, Mystify Researchers

More than a dozen tunnels have been found in Cornwall, England, that are unique in the British Isles. No one knows why Iron Age people created them. The fact that the ancients supported their tops...

Cursus Publicus: The Ingenious Postal System of the Roman Empire

Why Isn't This Map in the History Books?

What Maximum Security Meant for Ancient Tomb Raiders (Video)

Enigmatic Carvings on Underwater Ruins in China Mystify Investigators

The Texts That Rocked the Foundations of Christianity (Video)

MYTHS & LEGENDS

Walking the Waves: How Orion's Ability to "Walk on Water" Was Ascribed to Jesus

Jesus' supernatural stroll across the Sea of Galilee endures as one of the most popular Christian miracles. The outset of each version is identical: Jesus directs his apostles to row to the other side of this inland freshwater sea, while he departs to a nearby mountain to pray.

Baphomet: Was the Diabolical Demon Really Worshipped by Knights Templars?

Crater Lake National Park: Puzzling Myths and Missing Persons

- The Ant People of the Hopi

Is The Real Location of the Ancient Underworld Right in Front of Us?

Aboriginal Dreamtime Stories and the Creation Myths of Australia

The Origins of Human Beings According to Ancient Sumerian Texts

ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY

An Unbreakable Story: The Lost Roman Invention of Flexible Glass

Imagine a glass you can bend and then watch it return to its original form. A glass that you drop but it doesn't break. Stories say that an ancient Roman glassmaker had the technology to create a flexible glass, 'vitrinum flexile', but a certain emperor decided the invention should not be.

Massive 200,000-Year-Old Hand Axes Rewrite Saudi Arabia History

- Could an Ancient Greek Bow Outperform a Modern One? (Video)

Were Ancient Greeks Building Pyramids at the Same Time as the Egyptians?

- Top 5 Ancient Greek Inventions We Still Use Today

The Evidence is Cut in Stone: A Compelling Argument for Lost High Technology in Ancient Egypt

The Ishtar Gate and the Deities of Babylon

OPINION

Cracking the Code to Discover Ancient Tarot Symbolism and Forgotten Universal Knowledge

How old is the Tarot? This is a question that seems easy to answer today. As playing cards, we can confidently map the Tarot to the early 15th century. Mystery solved? Well, it's not quite that simple.

Naupa Iglesia: An Egyptian Portal in the Andes?

The Truth Behind the Christ Myth: Ancient Origins of the Often Used Legend – Part I

Library in Stone: The Ica Stones of Professor Cabrera – Part I

Two Sides to Every Story: The North American Martyrs Shrines and Indigenous/ Roman Catholic Relations

The Origins of the Faeries: Encoded in our Cultures – Part I

OUR MISSION

At Ancient Origins, we believe that one of the most important fields of knowledge we can pursue as human beings is our beginnings. And while some people may seem content with the story as it stands, our view is that there exist countless mysteries, scientific anomalies and surprising artifacts that have yet to be discovered and explained.

The goal of Ancient Origins is to highlight recent archaeological discoveries, peer-reviewed academic research and evidence, as well as offering alternative viewpoints and explanations of science, archaeology, mythology, religion and history around the globe.

We're the only Pop Archaeology site combining scientific research with out-of-the-box perspectives.

By bringing together top experts and authors, this archaeology website explores lost civilizations, examines sacred writings, tours ancient places, investigates ancient discoveries and questions mysterious happenings. Our open community is dedicated to digging into the origins of our species on planet earth, and question wherever the discoveries might take us. We seek to retell the story of our beginnings.

ANCIENT IMAGE GALLERIES

Ancient Origins © 2013 - 2023

[Disclaimer](#) - [Terms of Publication](#) - [Privacy Policy & Cookies](#) - [Advertising Policy](#) - [Submissions](#) - [Contact us](#)

A project of [Stella Novus](#)

