Introduction to Native American Literature - Guided Notes

Background

- It is thought that ________________________________________________
  ________________________________________________________________

- It is believed that they came by a land-bridge across the Bering Sound, from Siberia into Alaska.

- Although most Native Americans did not come from________________________, the name “Indian” was
given to them by __________________________________________ who mistook
_________________________________________ for islands in the__________________.

- When Europeans arrived in North America (_________________________), there were approximately
  _________________________________ Native Americans living here.

- The Europeans started _________________________________________ off the land
  ___________________________________________ for the rich resources.

- Many wars were started in which the Native Americans were disadvantaged because of
  their______________________________________________. This led to the Indian Removal Act by
  President Andrew Jackson in 1830.

Indian Removal Act

- The Indian Removal Act gave ________________________________________ the right
  ________________________________________________________________ living east of the
  Mississippi River.

- Many tribes were forced _________________________________________ of the Mississippi
  River to “____________________________” for white settlement and slavery.

The New Reality

- The wars ceased at the end of the 19th century with the battle at
  ________________________________________________________________

- During the growth of the European population in North America, many Native Americans were exposed to
  ______________________________ to which they had no______________________________.

- Many Native Americans were forced onto ____________________________ and many children
  were to go to boarding schools in which their culture was ____________
  ________________________________________________________________
Reservations

- Native American Reservations are defined as tracts of land set aside for the ownership or use of particular Native American tribes. The term comes from the 19th century agreements, in which the tribes’ lands were seized by the US government except for the portions ‘reserved’ for their own use.

Boarding Schools

- __________________________________ were started in 1879 by Captain Richard A. Pratt whose __________________________________________

- Pratt wanted to assimilate Native American children into __________________________________________

- and did this using __________________________________________

- Children were usually __________________________________________ and were __________________________________________

Results

- Although many Native American reservations are considered key to the survival of Native American culture, they are homes to some of __________________________________________ in the US.

- About ___________ of students drop out of school.

- 30% of Native American Youth have thought about or attempted __________________________________________

- __________________________________________ is one of the __________________________________________ issues on reservations today.

- In 1928, the Meriam Report was issued, that exposed and condemned the inadequate education and conditions of Native American Boarding Schools.

- This initiated a process of replacing boarding schools with day schools closer to the reservations.

- The last boarding school was________________________________.

Native Americans Today

- Native Americans today are struggling to __________________________________________ a long history of __________________________________________.

- There are many Native American writers and activists that are working to __________________________________________

- __________________________________________ about Native American history, culture, and what it means to be Native American. However, stereotypes still exist...
Stereotypes

Common stereotypes:

- “Savage” -
- “Squaw” -
- Having Red Skin -
- Wearing Feathers -
- Living in a tipi -
- Making whooping sounds -

Four main “Indian” characters portrayed in pop culture:

- The wise elder
- The drunk or savage
- The Indian princess
- The loyal sidekick

Native American Literature

- ____________________________, passed down from generation to generation by storytelling and performances.
- Includes ____________________________ (stories that explain the beginning of the world), tales of heroes and ____________________________ (who transformed the world to its present state), and the ritual songs/chants that were part of ceremonies.
- Much of it emphasizes the importance of living in ____________________________.

Why study Native American Literature?

- We must remember that Native Americans are a part of our history as Americans. Their stories remind us of the importance of ____________________________.
- They had complex ____________________________ beliefs, sophisticated ____________________________, and strong social values; all reflected in their ____________________________.
- Their stories, experiences, and culture deserve to be.