

Native American Heritage: Moundbuilders 2.0

Activity: Trade

Suggested Grades

6-12

Overview

Many tribes used trade to obtain materials that they were not able to get. These items can be anything from beads to animal hides. Due to these trade patterns, there was a cultural interchange of patterns and designs due to the geographic location of tribes.

Objectives

Through research, students will recognize historic trading patterns and methods.

Time Needed

One to three fifty-minute class periods for research, design, and analysis.

Materials Needed

Paperclips in many colors or photos of items to trade

Instructions

1. Begin with a discussion of trade and its importance to American Indian tribes over all of America.
2. Show photos of trade items or have students locate images on the web.
3. Have students break into several smaller groups.
4. Have the students create a group name for their trading group.
5. Next distribute the photos of items to trade or the different colored paperclips (to represent different items from the past). No one group should have more than ten items total.
6. Have students trade with other groups for a few minutes.
7. Debrief with the students in their groups
 - a. What was their trading plan?
 - b. How did they decide what the value of each item was?
 - c. Who approached whom?

Additional Activity:

You may have the students write a research paper or proposal for a trade route using what they learned.



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