



Native Americans

When Europeans arrived in the Americas, there were millions of Native Americans already living there. Native Americans believe in living in harmony (or agreement) with the Earth. Because they live so closely with the Earth, Native American's houses, clothing and food were often affected by the resources around them.

In the spring, Native Americans may pick berries, hunt and fish to feed their families. In the summer, they may grow crops such as corn, squash and potatoes. During the fall, when the weather turned cooler, Native Americans may harvest their crops and hunt for food. During the winter, when big animals were more scarce, they would hunt birds, hares and other small animals.

Some tribes traveled with their food source. These nomadic tribes often traveled to follow the buffalo. Because they moved so often, their shelters were easy to set-up, take down and carry with them.

Some Native American tribes created permanent homes that didn't need to be moved. Native American tribes of the Northeast were surrounded by forests and often used the natural resources to build homes. They might live in a wigwam with a wooden frame, or a long house made from wood or bark. In the South, Native Americans may have built homes without side-walls, to help cool the home.

The resources Native Americans had available to them, varied by where they lived, which affected their clothing, food and housing choices.