

# NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

MPM's Native American galleries on the 2nd Floor illustrate the connection that America's first people had with the land. Their ingenuity and ability to adapt to their surroundings supported them as they settled across a broad range of environments and developed into hundreds of culturally diverse tribes.

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**Crow Bison Hunt** - Start on the 2nd Floor between the life-sized *Bison Hunt* and *Powwow* exhibits. The *Bison Hunt* shows how the Crow Indians hunted buffalo before and after they had horses. Who introduced horses to North America and when?

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**Plains Indians** - Walk down the corridor to the left of the *Bison Hunt* and bear right into the *People of the Plains* exhibit behind it. Native American cultural tradition is rooted in ceremony and dance. Look above the exhibit cases at the painting on the wall. What was the purpose of the ceremonial dance being performed by the Mandan Indians?

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**Menomonee Indian Village** - Turn back the way you came and stay to the right of the escalator, continuing past the exhibit of Wisconsin fish until you see a small village scene representing a Menomonee Indian rice-gathering camp. As the weather changed, people responded by changing their food-gathering methods. Look at the panels to the right which explain food-gathering customs during each of the four seasons. How did Wisconsin Indians get food in the winter?

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**Native Games** - Continue forward and explore the exhibits of Indians of the Northeast, such as the Iroquois, and of the Southeast, such as the Seminole. When you reach the case with the American crocodile you will be able to see the many exhibit cases depicting a very important part of Native American culture - games. Look within the cases at the many games of skill and chance. How many do you recognize, and have you played any of them before?

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**American Southwest** - Continue to the life-size Hopi dwelling. Many Hopi still reside in dwellings called "pueblos," which are made of mud and wood. This large, two-story home shows a number of people engaged in traditional everyday tasks. Modern Native Americans rely on visits to supermarkets and department stores to meet their needs today; however, like many cultures, they maintain older traditions as well. Look in the windows to identify and list what tasks these people are taking part in:

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## what will you find?

Continue on to explore more of North America. The *Rocky Mountain* area shows a few tools that early European and American settlers brought with them in an effort to adapt to these rugged, unfamiliar lands. Don't miss the Northwest Indian plank house with its collection of spectacular ceremonial masks.