**Coeur d’Alene Tribe**

**Geographic Area:**

For thousands of years the Coeur d’Alene tribe lived in what would become the Panhandle region of Idaho, or northern Idaho. Originally the tribe roamed over 4 million acres of grass-covered hills, camas-prairie, forested mountains, lakes, marshes and river habitat in northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and western Montana. Summers for the Coeur d’Alene tribe were relatively warm and the winters are cold and snowy reaching negative temperatures.

**Food:**

The Coeur d’Alene Indians were fishing people. Their staple food was salmon, but they also caught trout and whitefish. The men of the tribe would hunt elk, deer, and buffalo and trap small game like beavers. Women in the tribe would gather nuts, roots, and berries to add to their diet. Coeur d'Alene fishermen used bone fishhooks, nets, and wooden fish traps. Hunters used bows and arrows and trained hunting dogs.

**Traditions and Homes:**

Traditionally, men and women had different jobs in the Coeur d'Alene tribe. Coeur d'Alene women gathered plants and herbs and did most of the child care and cooking. Men were fishermen and hunters and sometimes went to war to protect their families. The Coeur d’Alene lived in villages of earth houses sometimes known as "pit houses." These lodges are built partially underground, with a basement-like living space dug from the ground and a dome-shaped wooden frame built over it and packed with earth. The homes were small (about 15 feet across) and only a single family lived in each one.

**Skill and Talents:**

The Coeur d'Alene Indian tribe made lightweight birchbark canoes for fishing and traveling on the rivers. The tribe’s greatest skill was fishing along rivers and lakes for their main food source.

**Interesting Facts:**

Coeur d'Alene was the French name for the tribe, and it literally means "awl heart." Coeur d'Alene men wore breechcloths with leggings and short buckskin shirts with patterns of holes punched into them. Women wore buckskin dresses, often decorated with beads and quillwork. Both men and women wore leather moccasins on their feet, and in colder weather, they also wore fur robes.

**Nez Perce Tribe**

**Geographic Area:**

The Nez Perce roamed throughout the Columbia River Valley in present-day states of northern Idaho, southeastern Washington, and northeastern Oregon. They settled near the along the Snake, Salmon, and Clearwater rivers. In the Nez Perce region of Idaho, they encountered hot dry summers along with cold wet winters.

**Food:**

The Nez Perce would have men hunt for deer, elk, moose, bear, and mountain sheep. Along with hunting, they would fish in nearby rivers for mainly salmon. Nez Perce men would use spears and nets to fish. Hunters used bows and arrows. The women would gather nuts, berries, roots, and herbs to add to their diet. A major food source for the Nez Perce was a bulb called Camas.

**Traditions and Homes:**

Similar to other tribes, men were the fishermen and hunters of the tribe while the women would gather berries, nuts, herbs, and roots. When the Nez Perce tribe would be in wars the men would be the ones to go. Originally the Nez Perce lived in earth houses that were long so multiple families could share. Once they started hunting buffalo, they began building teepees from the buffalo-hide. Teepees were convenient for hunters when following herds of buffalo.

**Skills and Talents:**

Nez Perce women were in charge of the home. They would cook, clean, and make clothing and tools the family would need. The men were hunters and warriors, responsible for feeding and defending their families. Only men became Nez Perce chiefs, but both men and women took part in storytelling and music.

**Interesting Facts:**

The Nez Perce got their name from the French, and it means “pierced nose.” The Nez Perce never had a tribal tradition of pierced noses, so the French may have confused them with neighboring tribes. The Nez Perce most famous chief was Chief Joseph.

**Kootenai Tribe**

**Geographic Area:**

The Kootenai tribe of Idaho is located in Northern Idaho near the Canadian border. They depended on the surrounding rivers, lakes, prairies, and mountain forests of northern Idaho for their food source. The Kootenai would experience cold snowy winters and dry hot summers.

**Food:**

A major food source for the Kootenai was Salmon from the nearby rivers. When Salmon was absent from the rivers, they would catch sturgeon and whitefish and hunted deer, elk, and caribou for meat. They also gathered huckleberries, roots, and wild vegetables in meadows and prairies.

**Traditions and Homes:**

The Kootenai lived in longhouses and teepees. Longhouses could fit multiple families inside unlike the small teepees. They would also use the sweat lodge, which is domed-shape hut used for ceremonial prayers.

**Skills and Talents:**

The Kootenai were also called the “River People” because they were surrounded by water and great at catching fish. Another skill they had was building bark canoes for traveling on the water. They also carved wooden bowls and made spoons out of animal horns.

**Interesting Facts:**

The clothing for the men of the tribe included buckskin shirts, leggings, breechcloths and moccasins. The women wore buckskin dresses and moccasins. During the winter months they wore leggings. Hats were made from rawhide and fur. During war, important warriors would wear feathers on their heads.

**The Northern Shoshone**

**Geographic Area:**

The Shoshone Tribe of Idaho lived in southeastern Idaho along the Snake River. Life for the Shoshone was different than tribes of central and northern Idaho. The land in southeastern Idaho is flat and dry, which is completely different than what northern tribes lived on. The winters for the Shoshone were long and cold while summers were hot and dry.

**Food:**

Food was hard to find for the Shoshone because of the different climate and land. They usually ate salmon, rabbits, rodents, insects, seeds, and nuts. If they were lucky, sometimes they would hunt deer if they could find them.

**Traditions and Homes:**

The Shoshone lived in mat-covered and skin-covered teepees because they would move frequently. They also built sweat houses, which were domed-shaped huts used for ceremonial prayers.

**Skills and Talents:**

The Shoshone women and men had equally important roles in helping the family survive. The men of the tribe did the hunting and served as the chiefs of the tribe. The women did most of the child raising and plant gathering.

**Interesting Facts:**

The Shoshone loved to sing, dance, and tell stories. The Shoshones of Idaho were nicknamed “The Snakes” by neighboring tribes and traders. The actual meaning of “Shoshone” was “The Valley People.” Shoshone women wore long deerskin dresses with wide sleeves. Shoshone men wore breechcloths and leggings, as well as buckskin shirts when the weather was cool. Both men and women wore moccasins on their feet.