

Ch 1 Section 2 North American Societies Around 1492

Native Americans Live in Diverse Societies

California

- **Kashaya Pomo** hunt waterfowl along northwest coast
- Yurok, Hupa gather acorns in forests, fish in mountain streams

Northwest Coast

- Large communities live along streams, seashore, and in forests
- **Kwakiutl**, Nootka, Haida depended on the sea and gathered shellfish, hunt whales, otters, seals
- Place totems, symbols of ancestral spirits, on masks, boats, poles
- Potlatches—families give away possessions in special ceremonies

Southwest

- By 1300, **Pueblo** settle near waterways, build multistory houses
- Hopi, Acoma live near cliffs, develop irrigation systems
- Grow corn, beans, squash; make pottery; build kivas, underground ceremonial rooms

Eastern Woodlands

- Tribes like **Iroquois** build villages in forests; farm, hunt, gather
- People develop woodworking tools, craft objects from wood
- Northeast rely on animals for food, clothing; Southeast, on farming

Native Americans Share Cultural Patterns

Trading Networks

- Trade one of biggest factors in bringing tribes into contact
- Groups specialize in processing or making different products
- Traders on transcontinental network trade items from far-off places

Land Use

- Native Americans consider land the source of life, not to be sold
- Disturb it only for important reasons, like food gathering, farming

Religious Beliefs

- People believe nature is filled with spirits; ancestors guide people
- Some cultures believe in one supreme being

Social Organization

- Bonds of **kinship**, ties among relatives, ensure customs are passed on
- **Division of labor**—tasks by gender, age, status— creates social order
- Groups organized by families; some in clans with common ancestor