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**Who are Indians**

-- The first Americans: 25,000 years ago from Siberia over the Bering Strait to Alaska

-- The Bering Strait was tied together then and it was possible for the Indians to walk from Asia to Alaska

-- descendants of Asian people-Mongoloid

-- By 1492, over 10 million people, mistakenly called Indians by Christopher Columbus, inhabited the Americas.

-- They were skilled hunters and fishermen.

-- They Developed the brilliant American civilizations of the Aztecs (阿兹特克), the Incas(印加)and the Mayas(马··雅).

**Indian Reservations**

-- an indian reservation is a land that is set aside for Native Americans by the Uniteds States government

-- In the Indian reservation, Native Americans manage their own land under the US Bureau of Indian Affairs

-- Reservations are governed by the local Native American Government. The tribe has its own laws,police and court system . Federal laws do apply on reservations,but state laws do not.

-- The majority of the people living on a reservation are Native Americans who belong to the local tribe. As of 2012, there were less than 1 million Native Americans living on reservations. This was less than half of the estimated 2.4 million Native Americans that live in the United States.

-- The 2,000 United States census showed a larger number of Native Americans no longer lived on Indian reservations. Many now live in larger cities like Phoenix and Los Angeles.

**Issues Facing Indians Today**

-- The Reservations lacked basic public facilities and life-sustaining opportunities. Therefore, life on an Indian reservation today can be very difficult. Many Native Americans live in poverty. There is high unemployment, poor living conditions, and drug abuse.

-- Much of traditional Native American culture has been lost over the years. However, the people do a lot to help preserve and renew the Indian way of life. Original arts and crafts are still created on many reservations. Other important areas of the culture that are preserved include Native American languages, ceremonies, dances, and traditional stories.

-- In 1828, gold was discovered on land belonging to the Cherokee Indians in Georgia. This made the land even more desirable to white settlers who had begun expanding south and westward.

-- In 1830 Congress, urged on by President Andrew Jackson, passed the Indian Removal Act, which gave the federal government the power to relocate any Native Americans in the east to territory that was west of the Mississippi River.

-- Though the Native Americans were to be compensated, this was not always done fairly and in some cases led to the further destruction of the already diminishing number of many of the eastern tribes.

-- In the fall and winter of 1838-1839, 15,000 Cherokees were forced out of their ancestral lands to make room for those settlers. They were made to move to what is now Oklahoma, a journey of 1,200 miles. About 4,000 Cherokees died on the way.

-- The route that they followed is known as "The Trail of Tears" or "The Trail Where They Cried" because of how much they suffered on the way.

-- Hopkinsville, Kentucky, was a stopping point on that journey. In 1993, the Trail of Tears Commemorative Park opened in Hopkinsville to honor the Cherokees and all Indians, the original inhabitants of America.

crazy horse memorial

indian hero

refuse the money from the government