



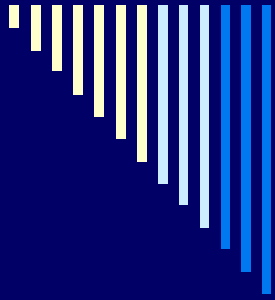
Before 1620

- Peoples indigenous to the Americas orally perform and transmit a variety of "literary" genres that include, among others, speeches, songs, and stories (e.g., [Iroquois](#) and [Pima](#) creation narratives, trickster tales, etc.)
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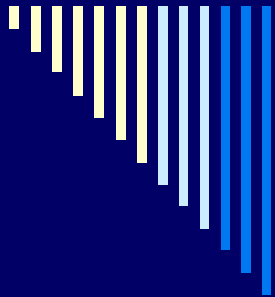


The Iroquois Creation Story

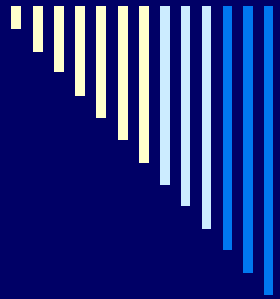
The Iroquois people originally were composed of five nations -- Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Onondaga, and Cayuga -- and were joined by the Tuscarora of North Carolina in the eighteenth century. Called "People of the Longhouse" because they lived in long dwellings that accommodated several families, the Iroquois occupied the lands northeast of lakes Ontario and Erie around the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers and southeast of the lakes toward the Hudson River.



- Women played a dominant role in the culture, owning property and making major social decisions while the men engaged in warfare or hunting. The Iroquois creation story, which exists in some twenty-five versions, had been passed down through oral tradition until David Cusick, a Tuscarora, transcribed and translated it in the nineteenth century.



- The Iroquois creation story teems with life, diversity, and change. Particularly compelling within it is the idea of the good mind and the bad mind. The version of the story printed in *NAAL* was collected and set down in 1827 -- after decades of bitter and fruitless warfare with the advancing white culture and with other native American nations.
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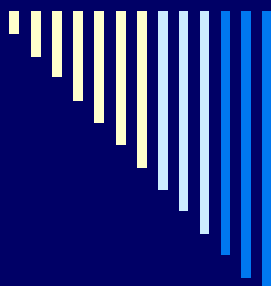
The Pima Creation Story

- The Pima, or Akimel O'odham, lived in the Arizona desert along the Gila and Salt rivers, a remote location which helped them resist European influence.
 - They were named "Pima" in the fifteenth century by the Spanish, who later recorded their first narratives.
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Pima

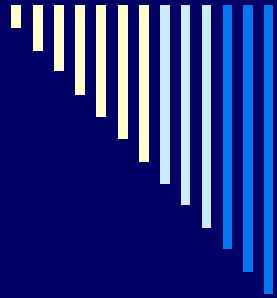
- No creation stories were transcribed until the early twentieth century, when Edward H. Wood, a full-blood Pima, met J. W. Lloyd at the Pan-American Fair in Buffalo and asked his help in preserving the legends of Wood's grand-uncle, Thin Leather. Lloyd traveled to Arizona to record Thin Leather's tales and published *Aw-aw-tam, Indian Nights, Being the Myths and Legends of the Pimas of Arizona* in 1911.
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- The Pima creation story takes us to a landscape on the other side of the North American continent, to a people who favored stability, settlement, and peace and whose artistic traditions were long and rich. At the time that this story was collected, the Pima were particularly skilled in agriculture and in making sophisticated crafts. Perhaps this information will help us understand the very different experience that this creation story provides.
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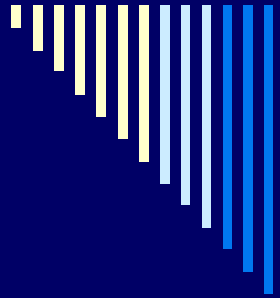


Christopher Columbus

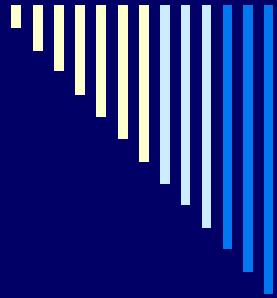
- **1000-1300** Anasazi communities inhabit southwestern regions
 - **1492** Christopher Columbus arrives in the Bahamas. Between 4 and 7 million Native American peoples estimated in present-day United States, including Alaska
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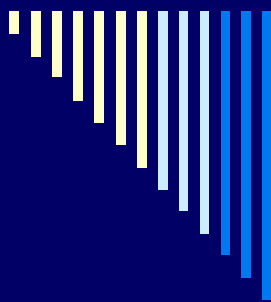
- **1499** Amerigo Vespucci visits South America
- **1500** Native American populations begin to be ravaged by European diseases
- **1504-05** Vespucci, *Mundus Novus*
- **1507** Martin Waldseemuller, geographer,
names the new land "America" for
Vespucci

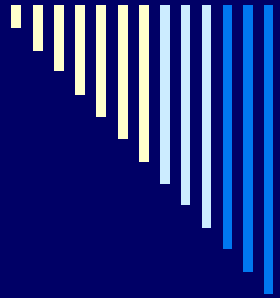


- **1512** Spanish Laws of Burgos forbid enslavement of Indians; advocate Christian conversion
- **1514** Bartolomé de las Casas petitions Spanish crown to treat Native American peoples like other human (subject) populations

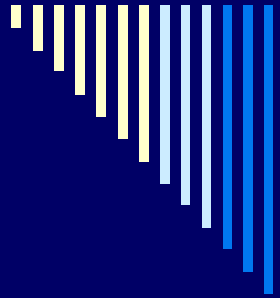


- **1519** Hernán Cortés, *First Letter from Mexico to the Spanish Crown*
- **1519-21** Cortés conquers Aztecs in Mexico
- **1526** Spanish explorers bring first African slaves to South Carolina
- **1539** First printing press in the Americas set up in Mexico City. Hernando de Soto invades Florida

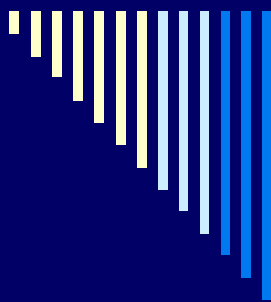
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- 1542 Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *The Relation of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca* 1552 Casas, *The Very Brief Relation of the Devastation of the Indies*
 - 1557 A Gentleman of Elvas, *The Discovery and Conquest of Terra Florida*
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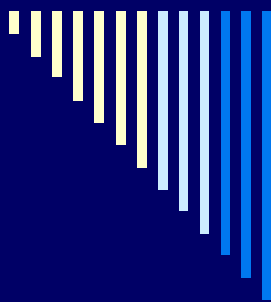


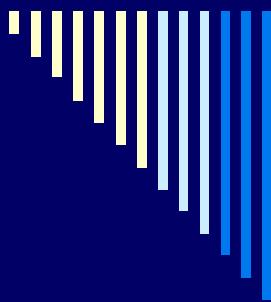
- **1558-1603** Reign of Elizabeth I, patroness of English explorers
- **c. 1568** Bernal Díaz del Castillo composes *The True History of the Conquest of New Spain* (pub. 1632)

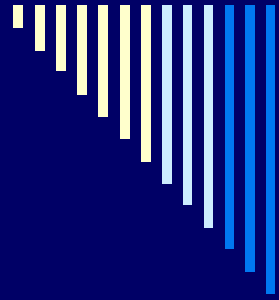


- **1582-98** Spanish begin settling New Mexico **1584** Walter Raleigh lands on "island" of Roanoke; names it "Virginia" for Queen Elizabeth
- **1587** John White leads expedition to Roanoke. Birth of Virginia Dare, first child of English settlers

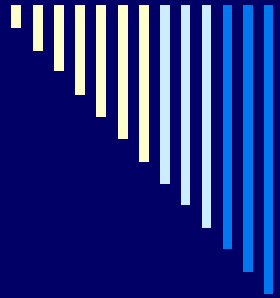
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- **1588 Thomas Harriot, *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia***
 - **An optimistic account of native culture --**
Although this work lacks candor -- Harriot avoids mentioning how the colonists fled a brutal storm by ship -- it does acknowledge how the Indians were gradually devastated by disease and provides detailed descriptions of these native peoples in their soon-to-be-changing natural environment.
 - **1589 Arthur Barlowe, *The First Voyage Made to the Coasts of America***
 - **1590** White returns to Roanoke, where settlers have disappeared
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- **1600** John White, *The Fifth Voyage of Mr. John White*
 - **1603-13** Samuel de Champlain explores the St. Lawrence River; founds Québec
 - **1607** George Percy prepares *Observations Gathered out of a Discourse of the Plantation of the Southern Colony of Virginia* (pub. 1625)
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- **1607** Jamestown, the first successful English colony, is established in Virginia. Powhatan confederacy prevents colonists from starving; teaches them to plant tobacco
 - **1610** Gaspar Pérez de Villagra, *The History of New Mexico*
 - **1613** Champlain, *The Voyages of Sieur de Champlain*
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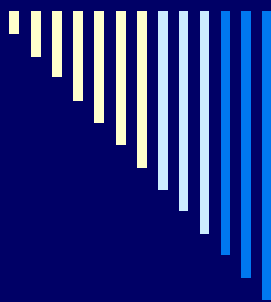


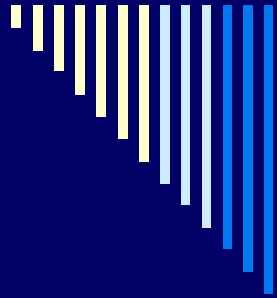
- 1624 John Smith, *The General History of Virginia* *Text see next slide*
- 1619 Twenty Africans arrive in Jamestown on a Dutch vessel as indentured servants



Captain John Smith.

- a Virginia folk hero and his writing:
 - “And this is as much as my memory can call to mind worthie of note; which I have purposely collected, to satisfie my friends of the true worth and qualitie of Virginia.” –1612 “Description”
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- Yet some bad natures will not sticke to slander the Countrey, that will slovenly spit at all things, especially in company where they can find none to contradict them. Who though they were scarce ever 10 miles from *James Town*, or at the most but at the falles; yet holding it a great disgrace that amongst so much action, their actions were nothing, exclaime of all things, though they never adventured to knowe any thing; nor ever did any thing but devoure the fruits of other mens labours. Being for most part of such tender educations and small experience in martiall accidents, because they found not English cities,
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- nor such faire houses, nor at their owne wishes any of their accustomed dainties, with feather beds and downe pillowes, Taverness and alehouses in every breathing place, neither such plenty of gold and silver and dissolute liberty as they expected, [they] had little or no care of any thing, but to pamper their bellies, to fly away with our Pinnaces, or procure their means to returne for England. For the Country was to them a miserie, a ruine, a death, a hell, and their reports here, and their owne actions there according