

Cassie Schroer
HIST 403
Seminar Paper
25 February 2015

Throughout this class I have learned a lot about Native Americans and everything they have gone through. Little did I know how much they have actually gone through since the beginnings of the Europeans coming over to the land. I knew that they faced a lot of struggles but not as many as they actually did. I will talk about what most tribes were like, the two main tribes that were in Minnesota and some of the wars they dealt with. I will then finish with what I can do in the future and how some live today and where.

Food was a main part of every tribe. How would they get food and where? Some tribes would hunt while others would farm. Hunters tended to enjoy moving around to different areas while farmers liked to stay in one area to grow their food. Hunters would use different methods to kill the animals. Tribes would create weapons from rocks and sticks. The weapons they would use by sneaking up on the animals and then killing them. This was a very dangerous method because they would have to get very close to the animals to be able to kill them. Another method was to use horses and run the animals off of a small cliff or hill so that they would fall down. They would then pull the animals up the hill and have a big supply of food. This was a much easier method because they could get a lot of food at one time. When some communities would get too large they would have to split up because they were not able to provide for all of the people. Around the Mississippi River was a good stopping and community location because it is good for farming. This then became a good trading network on the water. Their homes could have been called long houses these could support many families. The women of the tribe did many different things including cleaning and cooking. They also tended for the crops while the men were out hunting. The elders tended to care for the younger children and teach them about

their ancestors and other important lessons. The main crops they grew were: corn, beans and squash. They would plant all three in the same field for them to grow together. Most of the people relied on the environment for everything that they did.

In Minnesota there were two main tribes: Ojibwe in the north and the Dakota Sioux in the southern area. Ojibwe or Chippewa means “to roast until puckered up”. They are known as the first men. This group was known for their homes, they mainly stayed in one place. A main item they used was birch bark. This was used for homes, canoes and many other things. Birch bark is good in the water so it was a useful material. The Ojibwe tended to do more farming. They grew: corn, beans, squash, pumpkins and their main item was wild rice. Wild rice was an easy item to grow because in northern Minnesota there are a lot of lakes and swamp lands which is a good environment for wild rice to grow. They tended to hunt only in the summer when it was warmer out and the men mainly did this job while the women looked after the fields. This group particularly loved the land and cherished it. The Dakota Sioux which means “allies” were located in the southern part of Minnesota. They liked to hunt more and move around the land and discover new grounds. When they would plant they would move around and use different soil for the crops rather than staying in just one area. This group had many different languages.

In the 17th century the Colonial Indian Wars began. This was when the Europeans started making their way to this new land. The fur trade was a huge part. Groups wanted beaver fur and the Europeans caused large issues among the groups. The English then started gaining more and more power in the Beaver Wars and started to gain all of the control. A Colonial Strategy was to try to make temporary peace to possibly get some land rights from the Indians. This was not fair to the Indians because it was rightfully their land first. The French and Indian War then began this was when two groups wanted to move into the same area which would not work out for the

best of everyone. Most of the French ended up taking most of the Indians off of their land. Eventually most of the Indians were pushed out of their own land and were forced to either leave or live on reservations. We still see reservations today. Some tribes are still working out their issues and have a lot of struggles with everything that had happened in the past. Some children struggle in school today because they may still speak a different language or have a different learning technique. If I ever have a student that does struggle in these ways or even with something else I will try to adapt and teach them in a way that is positive and most helpful to them.

As a teacher I can talk about how most of us are here today. How the people before us lived on this land and when the Europeans came and gained control. In a classroom you can talk about the traditions the Indians had before being pushed off their land and how some tribes still celebrate their traditions today. If there is a pow-wow going on I can encourage families to check it out and learn new things from the event. I think many people can learn a lot for the tribes that may impact them in life.