



Native American Tribes: Nez Perce



Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce 1840-1904

The Nez Perce tribe is from the Pacific Northwest area of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. Today there are about 2,700 members, most of whom live in Idaho.

In 1805, William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition met with the Nez Perce. At that time, the tribe was the largest in the area, with about 6,000 members.

The Nez Perce moved from place to place depending on the season of the year. They would move to find the best food. Sometimes they would go east to the Great Plains in Montana to hunt buffalo or west to the Columbia River to fish for salmon. In winter, the Nez Perce would have winter camps which they would return to every year.

When traveling, the Nez Perce would use tipis, or tents made from hides. The tipis could be moved easily from place to place.

The Nez Perce were known for their riding ability and fast horses. They also are skillful fishermen. In 1877, Chief Joseph led a band of Nez Perce after they were forcibly removed from their ancestral lands in a fight called The Nez Perce War. Though the fighting retreat ended with Chief Joseph's surrender, his principled resistance to the the removal earned him acclaim as a humanitarian and peacemaker.



Looking Glass, leader of the Nez Perce in front of a tipi 1877



A Nez Perce beaded shirt

Word Search

Circle each of the words on the list in the puzzle. Words can go across, up, down, backwards or diagonally.

F A V U F P Q Z I X S Z D U W
 C V R Q A Y Z P W A A W U D F
 C O L U M B I A L N M O C K E
 R N Y F V T R M F X O H U D G
 B O S I C L O A H T N A W W X
 U T K I E N B D F E T D X A D
 V G E A A R R U M T A I G X H
 Z N O H O K Y R F P N K M Y A
 E I R I B Q E U W F A H R N I
 C H W M A H N K N I A C U M A
 Q S O L S S E S R O H L R N W
 T A E I X D V P T H G H O M Q
 N W F K J V T R V P X E A R X
 A T B B Y G J Y T K D H R F U
 X F S U Z D V Z U T H A W O L

WORDS
 TIPI
 FISHERMEN
 BUFFALO

SALMON
 HORSES
 IDAHO
 WASHINGTON

OREGON
 MONTANA
 COLUMBIA



Fill in the Blank

What kind of fish did the Nez Perce fish for?

What did the Nez Perce live in when traveling?

In what four states did the Nez Perce live?

How many Nez Perce members are there today?