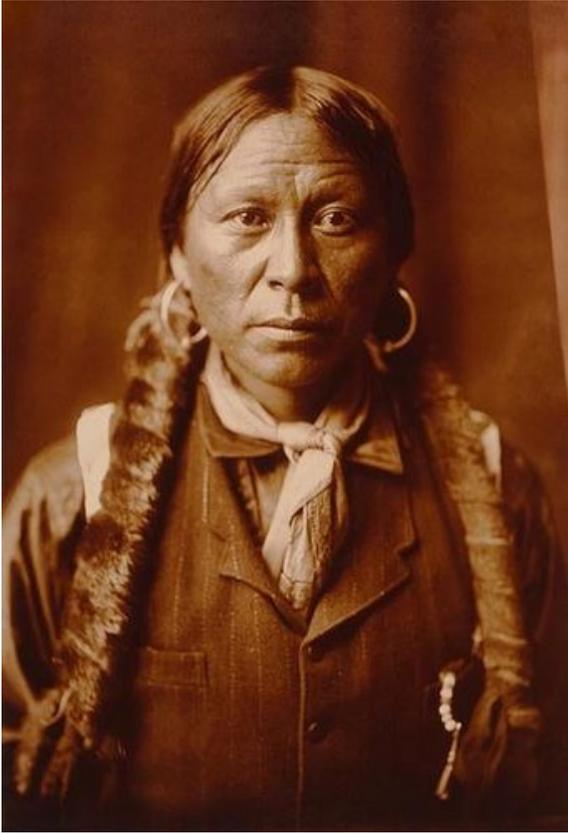


They Call Them Apaches

by W.M. Akers



The Apaches, one of the most famous Native American groups, have lived in North America for more than 600 years.

Apache is pronounced "uh-PAH-chee," and it isn't the only name for these remarkable people. In fact, it isn't even from the Apache language! There are different theories of where the term originated. According to some, it comes from a word meaning "enemy" in the language of the Zuni, a neighboring tribe. The Apache originally called themselves Ndee, which means "The People." Today, however, most Apache people refer to themselves as Apaches.

The Apache first came to what is now the southwestern part of the United States sometime between 1000 and 1400 AD-which means they had been living in the region for at least 100 years before Spanish explorers first reached the area. By the 19th century, theirs was one of the most interesting cultures in North America.

What Was It Like To Be An Apache?

In the 19th century, the Apache did not spend much time on their feet. They were among the greatest horse riders in the country, and they rode horses every chance they got. Unlike European settlers, the Apache did not bother with saddles. Instead, they rode bareback.

Instead of staying in one place and building cities, the Apache were nomadic and liked to move around. As the seasons changed, the Apache would go with them. They would go one place to hunt and another to look for fruits and nuts to eat. They would go one place for the summer and another for the winter. Although they never stayed in one place for very long, the Apache had a great connection to the land.

Where Did They Sleep?

There were three different kinds of Apache houses: the teepee, the wickiup, and the hogan. Teepees are cone-shaped tents that could be taken down and moved whenever it was time to go from one place to another. These were used by Apache living on the plains.

Wickiups and hogans were more permanent than teepees. Wickiups were 8-foot-tall wooden frames covered in brush. Hogans were made of mud or clay. They were used for shelter during the winter, when it was cold. The thick earthen walls would keep Apache warm when it was too cold for life on the plains.

What Is Apache Life Like Today?

In the late 1800s, the Apache fought a series of wars against the United States Army. Led by great warriors like Geronimo and Cochise, they fought for years to protect their way of life. But the United States Army was too strong for them and gradually forced the Apache onto reservations in New Mexico and Arizona.

Today, Apache people on those reservations work to maintain their ancient culture. Though they are proud of their past, they lead modern lives. There are Apache all over the country, from New York to Los Angeles. After hundreds of years in the United States, Apache culture remains as exciting as ever.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Who are the Apaches?

- A. a Native American group that has lived in North America for more than 600 years
- B. a Native American group that has lived in the Northeast United States for fewer than 500 years
- C. the descendants of a group of German people who moved to the United States in the 1800s
- D. the descendants of a group of English people who moved to the United States between 1650 and 1750

2. What does this passage describe?

- A. This passage describes the Zuni tribe and its history.
- B. This passage describes Apache life in the past and present.
- C. This passage describes life in New York and Los Angeles during the 19th century.
- D. This passage describes the journey of a European settler coming to the United States.

3. Read these sentences: "Teepees are cone-shaped tents that could be taken down and moved whenever it was time to go from one place to another. These were used by Apache living on the plains."

What conclusion do these sentences support?

- A. The Apache were great horse riders.
- B. The Apache were defeated by the United States Army.
- C. The Apache spent their whole lives in the same place.
- D. The Apache moved around a lot.

4. Based on the passage, what was the relationship like between the Apache and the United States in the 1800s?

- A. kind and friendly
- B. violent and unfriendly
- C. respectful and admiring
- D. quiet and peaceful

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A. the lives of Geronimo and Cochise
- B. plants found in the southwest United States
- C. the Apache people and their past
- D. European settlers in the United States

6. Read this sentence: "Instead of staying in one place and building cities, the Apache were **nomadic** and liked to move around."

What does the word "**nomadic**" mean?

- A. moving from place to place
- B. living in one place for a long time
- C. eating only meat and fish
- D. raising plants and animals for food

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The Apaches lived in three different kinds of houses, _____ the teepee, the wickiup, and the hogan.

- A. before
- B. after
- C. namely
- D. instead

8. What did the Apache do as the seasons changed?

9. Where do Apaches live today?

10. How is Apache life today similar to Apache life of the past? Support your answer with evidence from the passage.
