

FOR THE YOUNGER SET...

Before the European settlers arrived in what we now call America, there were well over 200 different nations of Natives living on what some of them called "Turtle Island". As we study the different nations, or what some people call "tribes" of Indians, we can organize them into 10 groups based on the area of North American where they were located. Here is a list of the 10 geographical areas"

1. Great Forest
2. Southeast
3. Great Plains
4. Southwest
5. Great Basin
6. Plateau
7. California
8. Northwest Coast
9. Subarctic
10. Arctic.

It is estimated that more than 2 thousand languages were spoken by the early inhabitants of this so called "Turtle Island". Now days, less than 200 Indian languages are still spoken and many are still going extinct. The Cherokee language has changed to adapt to modern times, but still holds many things of the ancient language. It is not in danger of extinction as are many other Indian languages.

There are basically 12 language families of Natives of North America. Cherokee is classified as an Iroquoian language. Below are the 12 language groups:

1. Eskimo-Aleut
2. Athapaskan
3. Algonquian
4. Iroquoian
5. Siouan
6. Muskogean
7. Caddoan
8. Shoshonean
9. Hokan
10. Shahaptian-Penutian
11. Salishan
12. Wakashan



ABOVE: Plains Indian with headdress