

Characteristics Of Native Culture

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America holds people from all over the globe, from many different cultures. Those who follow certain cultures are more easily identified than others. But someone cannot identify Native American culture just by looking at it. Indians dress, shop, attend school & sports events, live in houses with nuclear families, and drive the same cars as most everyone else. However, Indians have a certain worldview that distinguishes them from others, and they act on that worldview, which may not seem obvious to others by simply observing. One must talk with Indians to understand the concepts behind what they do, and when that background is understood, Indian culture can be more easily discerned.

An Indian's worldview is characterized by certain concepts, with the main idea being that when our Creator

made the universe and he created everything, he left a little of his spirit behind in what he created, so Creator's spirit is in each one of us, in everything around us, and in the behavior or actions of everything.



Our Creator continues to create those circumstances in the lives of each of us which bring us to where we are now. We are what we are because Creator made those experiences for us that contribute to our personalities right now.

Indians see everything in terms of circles, or vibration. Vibration can be resonance, cycles, or rhythm, depending on the speed of vibration. But it is all the same thing: repeated action. Everything in the world cycles to an Indian, everything repeats itself. Cycles are everywhere, and all of us are impacted by the rhythms or cycles in the earth around us. Even time is circular to native people. Ceremonies are done when the natural cycles around us let us know it is time for them. Calendars and clocks are only two of many cycles around us, and Indians seem more aware of all these cycles.

We are all connected because of the Creator's spirit that is within us. Not

just to people, we are also related to plants, animals, and the earth. Since everything is interconnected, damage done to the earth in one place affects all of us in other places. Hurting someone hurts others. Helping someone helps others. Taking only what we need from the earth, harming no one, leaving the earth as we find it, is the result of acting on the belief that everything is connected.



We cannot act selfishly if we understand that all is connected. We are what we are because of how it all comes together, not just by our own efforts. Taking more for ourselves leaves less for others. So we act as a part of everything, part of the circle, rather than above it all or apart from it all.



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