

Native American

Art of the United States of America

Rebecca Hinson

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Dedicated to my beloved friend, Susan Bye
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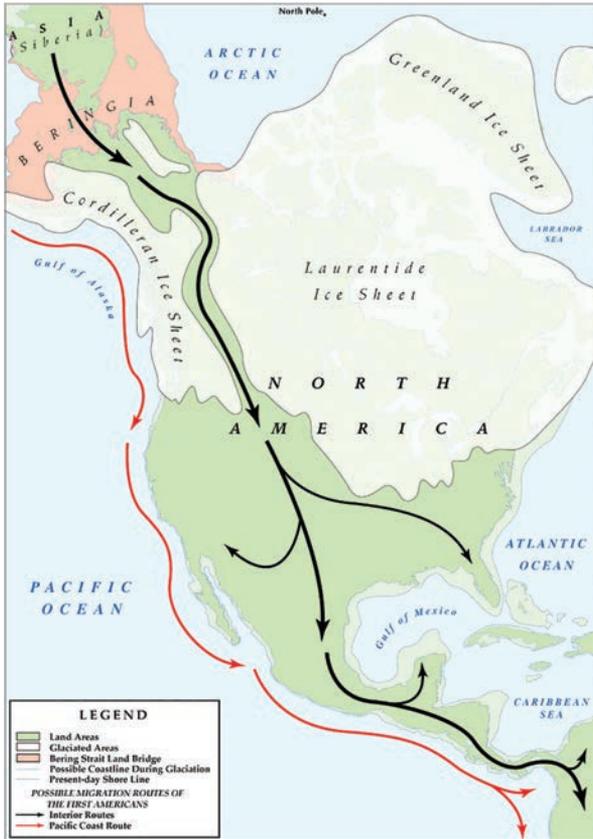
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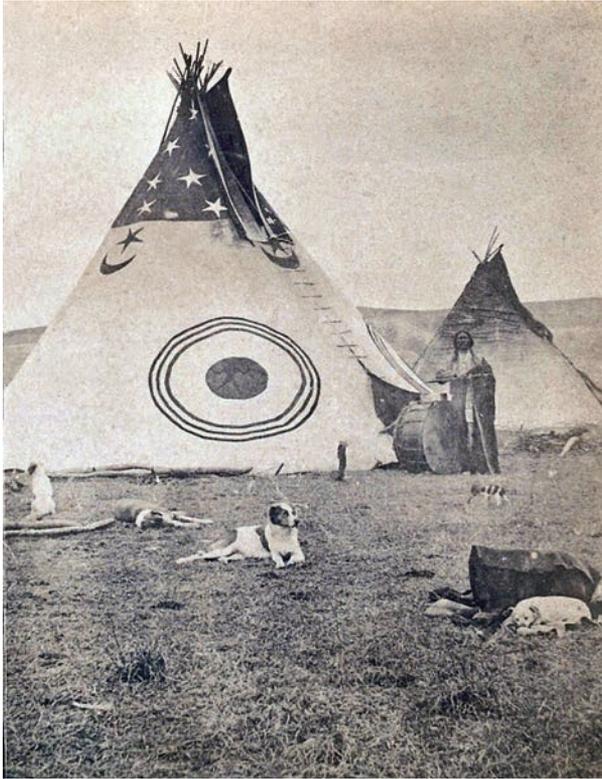
ARTISTS Cover, 24, George Catlin; 2, Cristian Ionita (edmaps.com); 3, 23, Karl Bodmer; 21, 22, Frank Albert Rinehart.



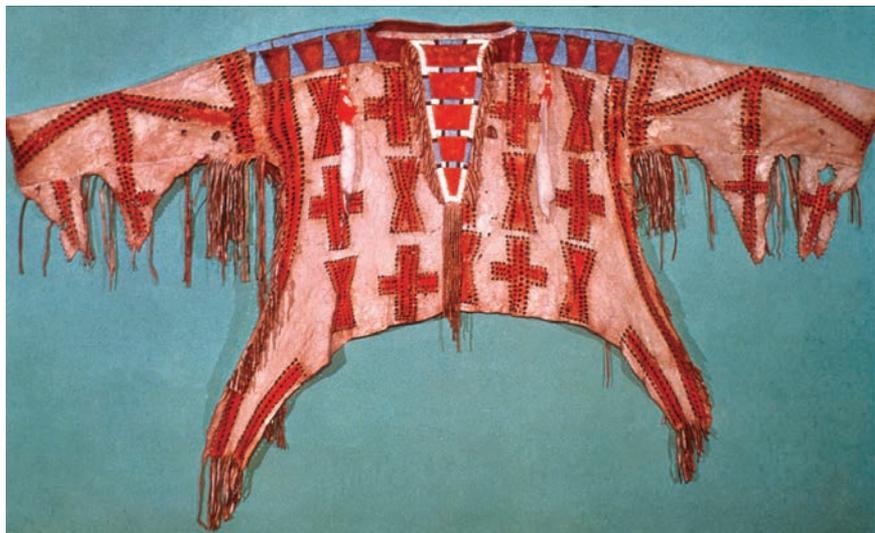
Native Americans, North America's first settlers, migrated over 13,000 years ago. They formed many diverse tribes, each of which made art that reflected their beliefs and local materials.



The tribes believed that plants, people, animals, land, water, and sky all had spirits. Respecting the raw materials of nature, they converted them into useful, decorative, and ceremonial objects.



Some tribes constructed tepees with long wooden poles covered with rawhide, decorating them with tribal designs or images from dreams and visions.



Native Americans tanned hides of deer, elk, antelope, caribou, beaver, buffalo, seal, and whale skin to make leather. The Blackfeet embellished garments with dyed porcupine quills.



Native Americans wove cloth with plant fibers, animal hair, and wool. Later they traded animal furs and skins with European traders for woolen cloth from England.



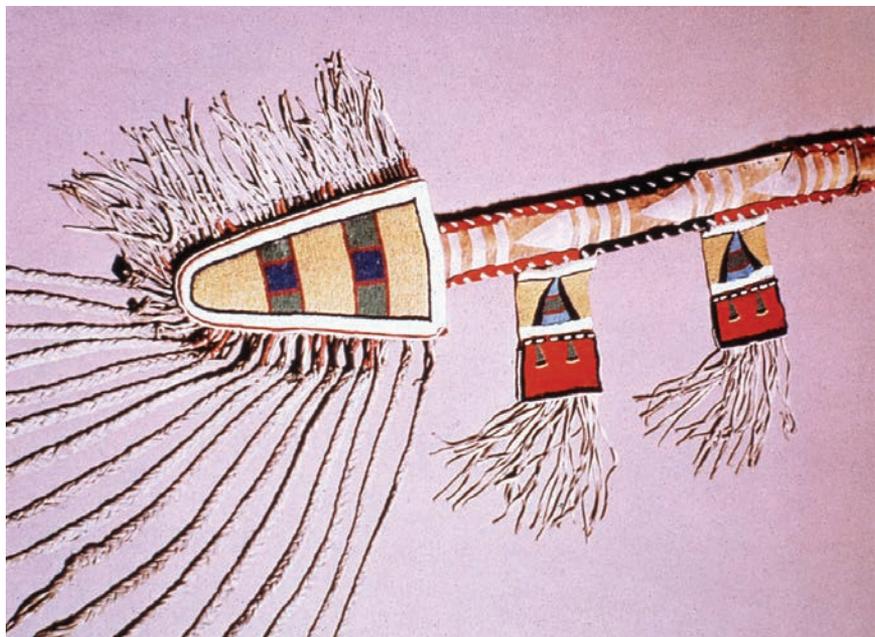
The Navajo wove rugs out of wool.



Comanche mothers carried their babies on their backs in laced-up leather bags mounted to wooden cradleboards, which could also be hung from a saddle or tied to a travois.



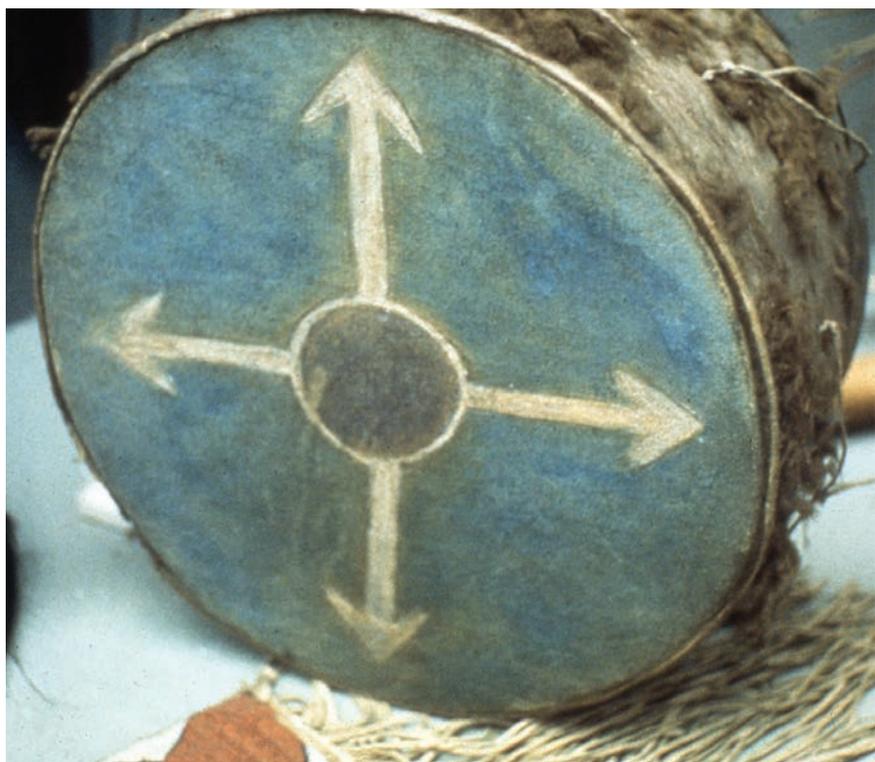
The Nez Perce used leather to create bow cases and quivers for carrying bows and arrows.



Lances were used in war and hunting. The Crow made lance cases with leather, wood, and twine.



The Sioux carved wooden shields.



The Nez Perce stretched leather over wooden frames to create drums.