

# Nez Perce

by

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The Nez Perce lived on the Columbia Plateau where Oregon, Washington, and Idaho come together. Some of them live in Kamiah, Idaho and other lives in Nespelem, Washington. Oregon is now a national park called Eagle Cap Wilderness. But no roads have been built there and no cars or trucks are allowed. The park still looks like when the Nez Perce called it home.

The men hunted deer, elk, bear, mountain goat, buffalo, and pronghorn antelope with their arrows. The Nez Perce were fishers. The Nez Perce women and children would pick many different berries. The woman used sticks to dig up bitterroot, wild carrots, wild potato, and cama root. Most of their food was dried and eaten in the winter or when they were traveling.

The men wore leggings, gloves, moccasins, Shirts that had fringes, and breechcloths made out of deer or elk skin. They decorated with porcupine quills. Nez Perce woman wore deer and elk skin also. They had long buckskin dresses, knee-length moccasins, leggings, and woven hats. Their dresses and moccasins were decorated with porcupine quills, elk teeth, and tusk shells.

The medicine man would performed ceremonies for the sick. In the spring the First Feast Ceremony would be performed to thank the Great Spirit and fish for giving it life to them. Another Ceremony is held in the spring to thank the plants for providing them with food. The Nez Perce would paint their face bright red and Yellow for Ceremonies.

The Nez Perce build three types of houses. One is the pit house, second is the long house, and third is tipis. The long houses were good for winter because they had pits for fire and that will heat up the house and they had ceremonies in there. Long houses were built by digging a hole. They made an A-shape frame over the hole and used cattail and reed mats for the roof and walls. Tipis were used for traveling. They were made out of buffalo hides and twelve wooden poles. The pit houses were built by digging a round holes and building a frame to support the reed mats.

The Nez Perce are famous for their weaving, quilling, beadwork, and war weapons.

The Nez Perce are also famous for breeding Appaloosa horses because they are valuable for trading.

The women were married under the age of 14 and the men were married at the age of 14. The family decided on who married who.

The Nez Perce met Lewis and Clark and helped them on there journey to the Pacific.

In Oregon they made there homeland in a national park.