

Arawak Lifestyle Notes

Dress

- The Arawaks wore clothing made from cotton and woven materials.
- Men wore a loincloth, while women wore skirts made from plants.
- They made themselves beautiful by wearing jewelry made from shells, beads, and feathers.

Home

- Arawak homes were called "**bohios**," which were circular, thatched-roof huts made from wood and palm leaves.
- Villages were located near rivers or coastlines (the sea).
- Their houses were built on raised platforms to protect from floods and insects.

Government

- Arawak society was organized into chiefdoms, led by a chief known as a "**cacique**."
- Decisions were made by the chief and a council of elders.

Recreation

- The Arawaks enjoyed games, music, and dancing.
- They played ball games like baseball and also participated in fishing contests.
- They engaged in dancing during celebrations.

Food

- Their diet consisted mainly of cassava, fruits, fish, and game.
- They practiced agriculture, growing crops like maize and sweet potatoes.

Religion

- The Arawaks believed in many gods and spirits that had something to do with nature. Polytheism
- They held ceremonies and rituals to honor their deities and seek protection.

Occupation

- The Arawaks were primarily farmers, fishermen, and hunters.
- They also traded with neighboring (nearby) tribes.

Extinction

- The arrival of Europeans in the 15th century led to a very big population loss because of disease, slavery, and fighting.
- By the 18th century, the Arawaks had largely disappeared from where they lived because of the mixing of their culture (assimilation) with Europeans and intermarriage with the Europeans.

Arawak Lifestyle Questions

A. Put a  next to your answer.

1. What type of clothing did Arawak men typically wear?
a) Dresses b) Loincloths c) Trousers d) Skirts
2. What were Arawak homes called?
a) Shanties b) Igloos c) Bohios d) Cabins
3. Who led an Arawak community?
a) Cacique b) Warrior c) Priest d) Farmer
4. What type of games did the Arawaks play?
a) Chess b) Board games c) Video games d) Ball games
5. What was a staple food in the Arawak diet?
a) Bread b) Rice c) Cassava d) Pasta
6. What type of spirits did the Arawaks believe in?
a) Nature spirits b) Ghosts c) Angels d) Demons
7. Which occupation was **NOT** of the Arawaks?
a) Fishermen b) Farmers c) Hunters d) Warriors
8. What event led to the decline of the Arawak population?
a) Natural disasters b) European colonization
c) Internal conflict d) Climate change
9. How did Arawaks decorate themselves?
a) With paint b) With jewelry
c) With tattoos d) With clothing patterns
10. What material was commonly used in Arawak home construction?
a) Brick b) Stone
c) Wood and palm leaves d) Metal
11. What was a role of the council of elders in Arawak society?
a) To farm b) To hunt
c) To advise the chief d) To entertain

12. What was a common method of fishing used by the Arawaks?

- a) Trapping
- b) Spearfishing
- c) Netting
- d) All of the above

13. What type of ceremonies did the Arawaks hold?

- a) Agricultural festivals
- b) Birth ceremonies
- c) Rituals honoring spirits
- d) All of the above

14. Which crop was **NOT** commonly cultivated by the Arawaks?

- a) Wheat
- b) Cassava
- c) Maize
- d) Sweet potatoes

15. What contributed to the extinction of the Arawak identity?

- a) Cultural preservation
- b) Technology
- c) Natural selection
- d) Intermarriage and assimilation