



# Indian Lore

## Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.

You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Boy Scout Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 637685).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2017 • This workbook was updated in March 2018.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Identify the different American Indian cultural areas. Explain what makes them each unique.

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2. Give the history of one American Indian tribe, group, or nation that lives or has lived near you. Visit it, if possible.

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Tell about traditional dwellings, kind of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, where members of the group now live, and how they live.

Traditional dwellings:

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Kind of life:

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Tribal government:

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Religious beliefs:

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Family and clan relationships:

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Language:

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Clothing styles:

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Arts and crafts:

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Food preparation:

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Means of getting around:

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Games:

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Customs in warfare:

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Where members of the group now live:

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How they live:

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3. Do TWO of the following. Focus on a specific group or tribe.

- a. Make an item of clothing worn by members of the tribe.
- b. Make and decorate three items used by the tribe, as approved by your counselor.
- c. Make an authentic model of a dwelling used by an Indian tribe, group, or nation.
- d. Visit a museum to see Indian artifacts. Discuss them with your counselor.

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Make three food items.

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| 1. |  |
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- c. Give a demonstration showing how a specific Indian group traditionally hunted, fished, or trapped.

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5. **Do ONE of the following:**

- a. Write or briefly describe how life might have been different for the European settlers if there had been no native Americans to meet them when they came to this continent.

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- b. Sing two songs in an Indian language. Explain their meanings.

|    | Song Name | Meaning |
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| 1. |           |         |
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| 2. |           |         |
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- c. Learn in an Indian language at least twenty-five common terms and their meanings.

|     | Indian Term | Meaning |
|-----|-------------|---------|
| 1.  |             |         |
| 2.  |             |         |
| 3.  |             |         |
| 4.  |             |         |
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- d. Show twenty-five signs in Indian sign language. Include those that will help you ask for water, for food, and where the path or road leads.

|                             | Sign | Meaning |
|-----------------------------|------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. |      |         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. |      |         |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 9.  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. |  |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 23. |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24. |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25. |  |  |



- e. Learn an Indian story of up to 300 words (or several shorter stories adding up to no more than 300 words). Tell the story or stories at a Scout gathering or campfire.

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- f. Write or tell about eight things adopted by others from American Indians.

|    | What was adopted? | Who adopted it? |
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| 1. |                   |                 |
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| 4. |                   |                 |
| 5. |                   |                 |
| 6. |                   |                 |
| 7. |                   |                 |
| 8. |                   |                 |

- g. Learn twenty-five Indian place-names. Tell their origins and meanings.

|    | Indian Place-Name | Origin | Meaning |
|----|-------------------|--------|---------|
| 1  |                   |        |         |
| 2  |                   |        |         |
| 3  |                   |        |         |
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| 22 |                   |        |         |
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| 25 |                   |        |         |

- h. Name five well-known American Indian leaders, either from the past or people of today. Give their tribes or nations. Describe what they did or do now that makes them notable.

American Indian Leader 1:

Tribe or Nation:

Notable Actions:

American Indian Leader 2:

Tribe or Nation:

Notable Actions:

American Indian Leader 3:

Tribe or Nation:

Notable Actions:

American Indian Leader 4:

Tribe or Nation:

Notable Actions:

Indian Leader 5:

Tribe or Nation:

Notable Actions:

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- i. Attend a contemporary American Indian gathering.

Name of Gathering:

Date:

Location:

Discuss with your counselor what you learned and observed. Include in your discussion any singing, dancing, drumming, and the various men's and women's dance styles you saw.

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When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>. You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.