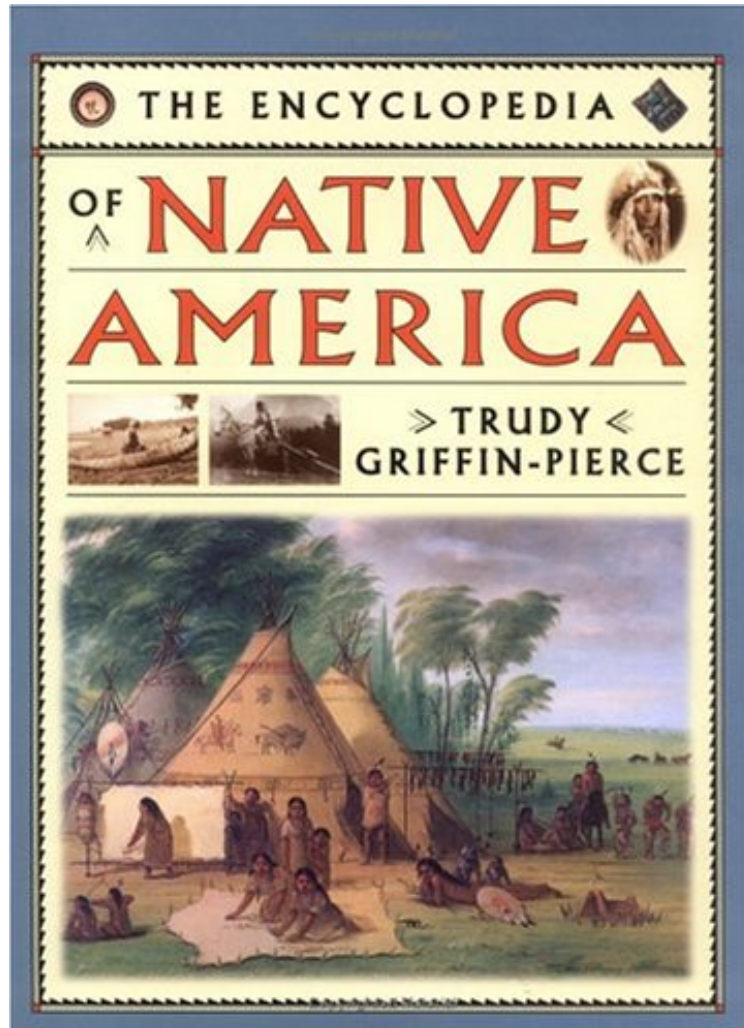


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Encyclopedia of Native America

Trudy Griffin-Pierce

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Trudy Griffin-Pierce : Encyclopedia of Native America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Native America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not horrible, not terrific- I would keep lookingBy Billie NicholasIt's ok, but certainly not something I would purchase had I seen it at a bookstore. Some of the information is just plain wrong. And I prefer actual photos (when available), rather than paintings from the 1800's that somehow (ALWAYS) never resemble actual Natives. Apparently back in the day these were thought to be superb paintings of what "Life on the frontier" was like, but that is only because the people viewing them had never seen an actual Indian, so were unaware of how inaccurate the depictions were. Some of the info (such as how a sweatlodge is constructed) is accurate and good. Other info (such as the generalized maps) are inaccurate. Sadly, the only way one would know what is

correct and what is not is if they already know a great deal about Natives through blood or schooling or life. People in this category are not generally purchasing these types of books (I bought this with the intent to give it to a young child I know who is trying to better understand Native American history- after perusing it, I am not giving it to him, and have instead ordered a few others, of which I hope meet my needs better). So... anyone buying this to begin their journey of understanding Native history better, would do much better purchasing another work. Perhaps, something by National Geographic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By LARRY excellent 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Resource By Educator, Lifelong Learner Beautiful layout; comprehensive; well detailed. An excellent addition to a classroom or child's library.

A family guidebook explores the Native American experience in North America through stories and songs from the rich Indian oral traditions, while offering historical coverage of the eight major cultural areas.

From Publishers Weekly Right down to its pages' decorative borders and designed numbers, Trudy Griffin-Pierce's *The Encyclopedia of Native America* manifests respect for its subjects while offering a detailed history of the "first Americans." Divided into seven geographic/sociological regions of the U.S., the book is complemented by numerous archival and present-day photos, historical lithographs and informative sidebars (Viking, \$25, 192p, all ages ISBN 0-670-85104-3 June). Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Although published by the children's division of Viking, the publicity material for this work states that it is appropriate for users of all ages. It will be most useful for students in grades 6[^]-9. Though titled an encyclopedia, it is not arranged alphabetically. It includes information about representative tribal groups arranged by region or cultural area. The author, whose specialty is the American Southwest, is an adjunct professor of cultural anthropology at the University of Arizona and a consultant on Native American art to museums. She is of Catawban ancestry and writes with an obvious respect for and knowledge of the cultures. The work begins with two maps--one which tries to show the location of Native American languages and the other eight cultural areas. Since there are no political boundaries, it is very difficult to actually place either the languages or the cultural areas. The main body of the work is divided into seven cultural or geographic areas, e.g., Great Plains, Northwest Coast, and the Southwest. The book excludes native groups in Alaska. Each of the sections follows a similar pattern, starting with a quote from one of the tribal groups discussed in the section. Next comes several five-to eight-page essays on representative groups that detail their housing, lifestyle, and important rites. Songs, poetry, and writings from the period; important persons; and arts and crafts are displayed in attractive boxes with large photos and illustrations in either black and white or color. The sections often end with a portrait of a contemporary representative from the cultural group. The epilogue contains information on Indians today. The author discusses World War II, the rise of AIM, and the struggle for Canadian Indian identity. This is followed by a list of eight books that provide tribal addresses, telephone numbers, and statistics; an unannotated section titled "For Further Reading" lists 17 works. There is also an index, but no pronunciation guide or glossary. This is more of a coffee-table book than a reference work; each section is meant to be read straight through. Its strength is the attractive illustrations. For circulating collections. Seven cultural and geographic areas are presented in a title which explores the different Native histories and cultures in this land. Oral traditions of song, story and legend blend with excellent-quality vintage illustrations and color reproductions of paintings and photos to create an appealing exploration which draws and treats the eye. -- Midwest Book