

Part 1: Gathering the Threads

An Introduction To American Indian Culture

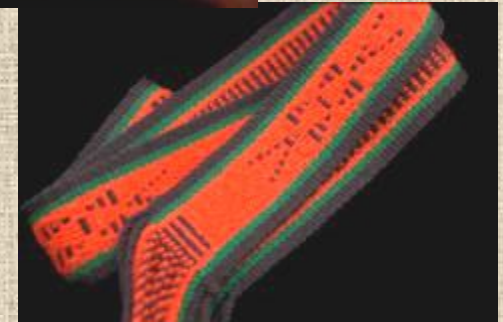


Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

- ◆ **567 federally-recognized tribes located in 34 states**
- ◆ **Lands administered:**
 - **45.6 million acres tribally-owned**
 - **10 million acres individually-owned**
 - **309,189 federally-owned held in trust**

What is Culture

- ◆ Shared history
- ◆ Language
- ◆ Values and Attitudes
- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Law and legal systems
- ◆ Economic and political systems



Understanding Culture

- ◆ Direct interaction
- ◆ Open minded
- ◆ Sense of humor
- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Flexibility and adaptability



Flexibility and Adaptability

The ability to respond to or tolerate the ambiguity of new situations, keep options open, and minimize judgmental behavior or attitudes



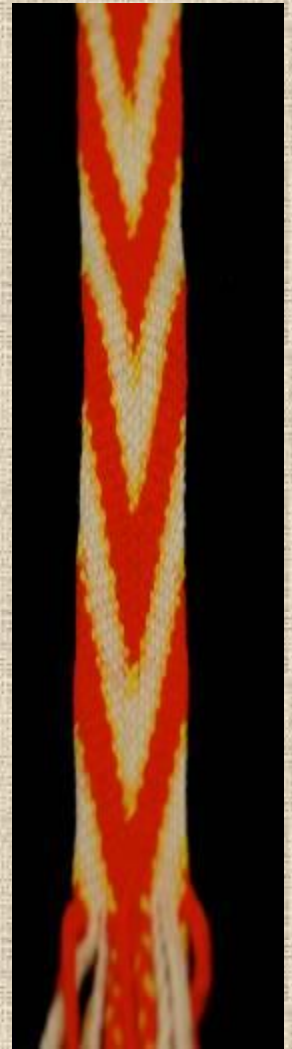
Sources of Misunderstanding in Cross-Cultural

- ◆ Lack of knowledge
- ◆ Fear of unknown factors
- ◆ Ethnocentrism
- ◆ Unconscious assumptions
- ◆ Stereotyping



Ethnocentrism

- ◆ Assume that the elements of our own culture are natural, and acceptable to others
- ◆ Ignore distinctions between our own culture and the other person's culture



Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity (Bennett 1986)

- ◆ **Experience of Differences**
- ◆ **Development of Intercultural Sensitivity**

Bennett's Model

Ethnocentric Stages



Bennett's Model continued....

Ethnorelative Stages

Acceptance → Adaptation → Integration



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graph LR; A[Acceptance] --> B[Adaptation]; B --> C[Integration]
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Key Points

- ◆ **Strive for adaptability and flexibility when working with a culture other than your own**
- ◆ **The six components of a culture are:**
 - **Shared History**
 - **Language**
 - **Values and Attitudes,**
 - **Religion**
 - **Law and Legal systems**
 - **Economic and Political systems**

Key Points continued...

- ◆ Sources of misunderstanding in a cross-cultural communication
- ◆ Lack of knowledge, fear of unknown factors, unconscious assumptions and stereotyping