Vocabulary for Native Americans

1. Renaissance – This is a period of time in Europe during the 16th century characterized by a flourishing of the arts
2. Paleo – Indians – These are the first people to inhabit America.
3. Indigenous – People that are native to the land
4. Columbian Exchange – The route of trade between Europe, Africa and the Americas following Columbus’ trip to the West Indies.
5. Tribute – A gift or token of appreciation
6. Cultivate – To prepare the land for planting
7. Bias – This is an unfair preference or dislike for something.
8. Green Corn Ceremony – This is the ceremony to give thanks for the corn that will feed the American Indians for another year
9. Individualistic Society – A society that puts the needs of the individual before the needs of the society
10. Collective Society –A society that puts the needs of the society above the needs of individual
11. Animism – The belief that things such as trees, stones and stars have a spirit.
12. Eminent Domain – This is the right of the government to take private property for public use with a fair price to be given to the owner.
13. Oral history – Stories passed down from generation to generation
14. Slash and burn – A method in which trees and brush are burned to clear land for fields and villages.
15. Artifact – pieces of stone, bone, pottery and tools left behind by ancient peoples
16. Tribe – A group of people who share a common ancestry, language. name and way of living.
17. Conquistador – Spanish conqueror of the New World.
18. Atlatl – a short stick used by pre-contact Indian to throw spears with more force.