

Native American Literature: The FIRST American Literature

--Challenging, for two reasons:

- 1) Many Tribes, many languages-- *(name some)*
ex: "Windtalkers" movie
- 2) No universal alphabet, therefore stories not written down
"Oral Tradition"
stories don't remain consistent

However, Native stories (literature) did influence later American writers...

Oral Tradition

Mythic stories (fantasy)

--As in other cultures, Native American culture is rich in myths and legends that were used to explain natural phenomena that is hard to understand. Some common myths explain Earth's creation. Others explain the sun, moon, animals, seasons, weather, etc.

Native American Myth: "Man in the Moon"

--What natural phenomena is explained in this myth?

--How easy would this story be to remember?

(Oral Tradition of storytelling)