

# Naming the original inhabitants of the america

[History](#)



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

NAMING THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF THE AMERICAS Inserts History and Political Science 4th December The main reason why there are many different terms describing the original inhabitants of North and South America is that it has not been possible to build consensus around a single term. Each of the terms ended up referring to a particular group of the people and not all of them. In some cases, the need for legal distinction between various indigenous people groups led to the multiplicity of terms. The source of controversy of names that include the term “ Indian” is that the term is a misnomer. There are suggestions that the term came about after Columbus’ made a mistake by thinking that he had reached Asia (dErrico 2011). He erroneously thought that the people he had found in the new continent were Asian Indians<sup>1</sup>. However, the truth is that they were distinct from all other people groups across the world. On the other hand, the use of the names containing the term “ American” also brings problems because the name America came from an Italian names Amerigos in the sixteenth century. In this sense, it is illogical to use a relatively recent name to refer to people who predated Amerigos. Finally, the term aboriginal refers to issues of “ the beginning. It is problematic to use such as a term as a reference point for naming the indigenous people of America because of the vastness of its scale.

The most appropriate term for the original inhabitants of North America should come from names that the natives ascribe to themselves (AADNC 2011). This is largely the practice internationally. Native is also a good term because it refers people who originally inhabited the land in recorded history. These two terms provide a better collective term for referring to the original inhabitants of North and South America.

<https://assignbuster.com/naming-the-original-inhabitants-of-the-america/>

## References

AADNC. Terminology. 2011. <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014642> (accessed December 4, 2011).

dErrico, Peter. American Indians - Native Americans: A Note on Terminology. 2011. <http://www.nativeweb.org/pages/legal/shoshone/indian.html> (accessed December 4, 2011).