Burial Customs

Betty Sue Ellis, Ms. Burch, 3rd Block

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Native American Indians

Burial customs vary widely among • Native American tribes. Many Native American tribes believe that souls of the deceased pass into the spirit world and influence every part of their lives. Some also believe that humans have two souls; one that dies when the body dies and one that wanders and after a while dies.

Arctic tribes leave their dead on the frozen ground for the animals to eat. Hopewell Societies, found in the upper midwest of the US, bury their dead in lavishly furnished tombs. Southeastern tribes perform the secondary bone burial. This is where they bury the body, unbury them, clean the bones of flesh and rebury.

- Northeast Iroquois are known to saved skeletons for mass burials, which included furs and ornaments, provided for the afterlife.
- Northwest coastal tribes place their deceased in mortuary cabins or canoes.
 Nomadic tribes simply bury their corpses.



 California tribes cremate their dead. They have long funeral ceremonies, and anniversary services one or two years after death.

 Central and south Atlantic tribes embalm and mummify their deceased.



Southwestern tribes, such as Apache and Navajo, wail and cry a year after death. **Both Apache and Navajo Indians also** fear ghosts. The Apache bury their corpses quickly and burn the man house and possessions. The family is then required to move to a new place to escape the ghost of their ancestor. The Navajo also bury their dead quickly.

 The Navajo also bury their dead quickly. Those exposed to the corpse has to go through a long and costly ritual purification treatment.

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 "Death and Dying." Native American Religion. JRank, 2015. Web. 11 Nov. 2015. http://www.deathreferenc e.com/Me-Nu/Native-American-Religion.html>.





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