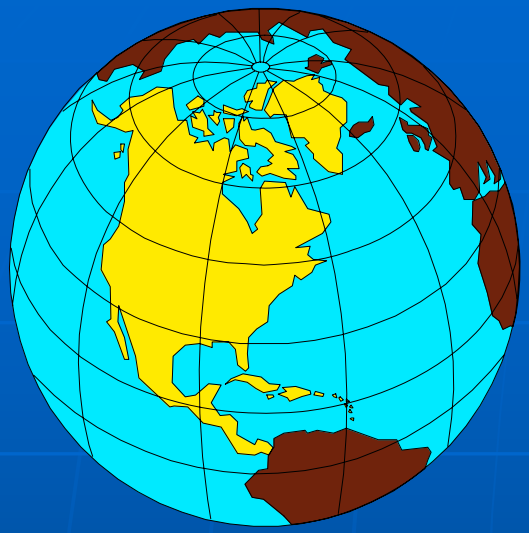
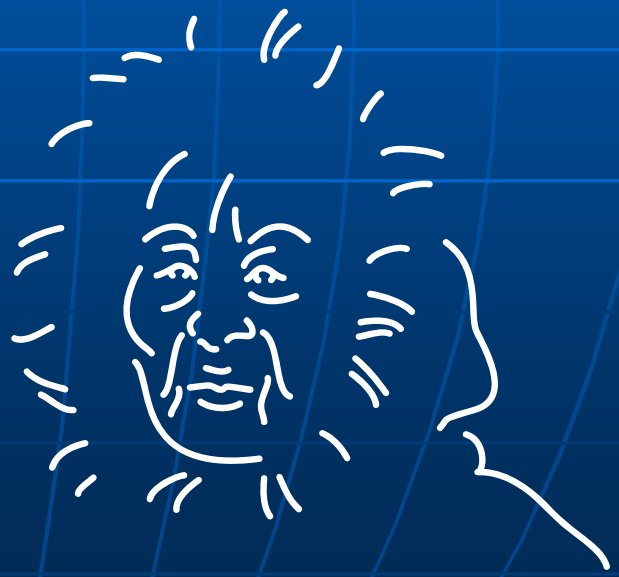


NATIVE AMERICANS/ ALASKAN NATIVES



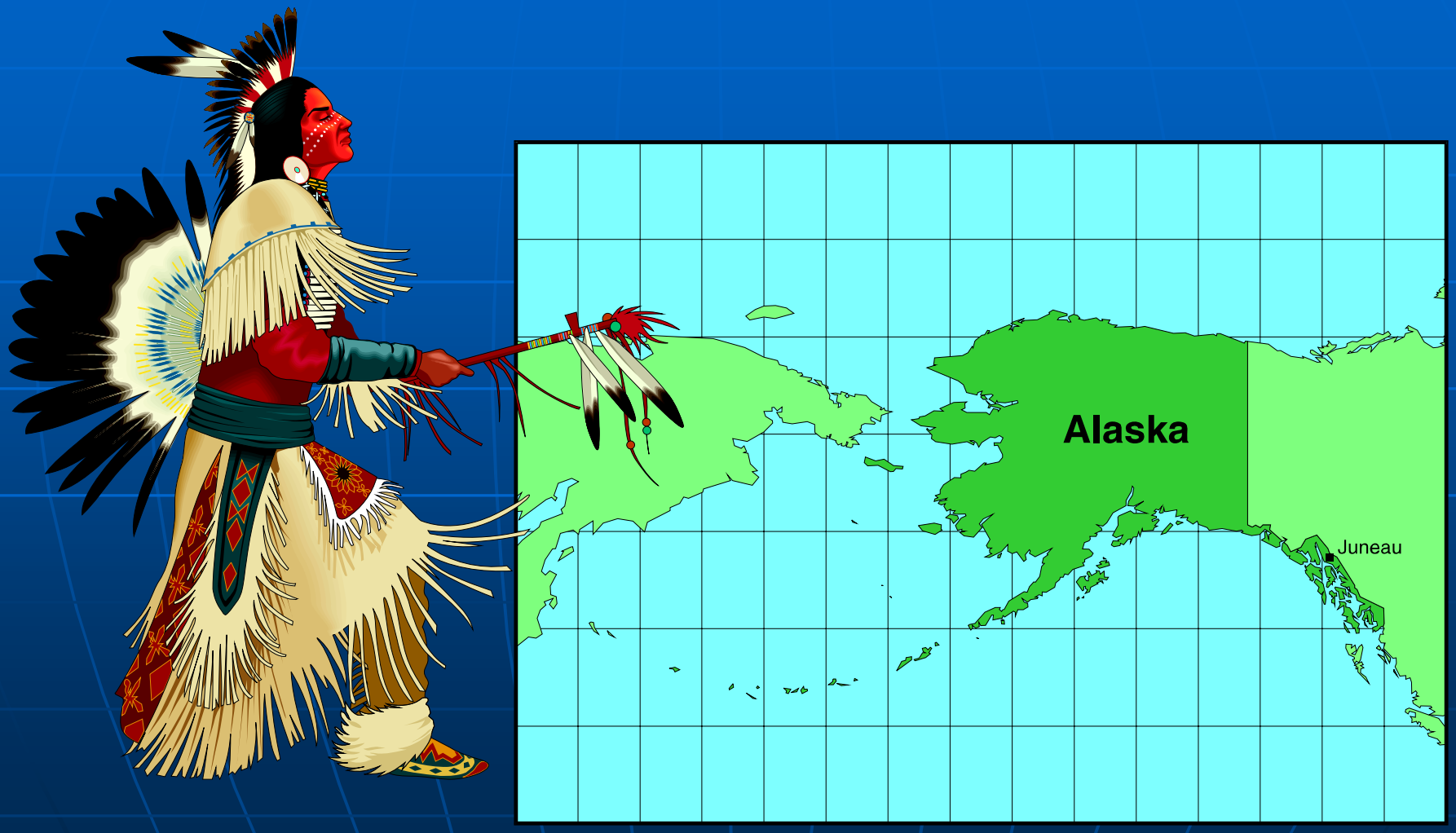
WHO IS AN AMERICAN INDIAN?

No single Federal or tribal criterion establishes a person's identity as an Indian. Government agencies use differing criteria to determine who is an Indian and are eligible to participate in their programs. Tribes also have varying eligibility criteria for membership.

To be eligible for Bureau of Indian Affairs services, an Indian must (1) be a member of a Tribe recognized by the Federal Government; (2) 1/2 or more Indian blood of tribes indigenous to the United States; or (3) must for some purpose be 1/4th or more Indian ancestry.

The Bureau of Census counts anyone an Indian who declares himself or herself to be an Indian.

The first Indians came across the Bering Strait from Asia to North America at least thirty - five thousand years ago



Originally, an Indian Tribe was a body of people bound together by blood ties who were socially, politically, and religiously organized; they lived together in a defined territory and spoke a common language or dialect.

TRIBES

Over 550 Federally recognized Tribes exist in the United States, including 223 village groups in Alaska

Only tribes with more than 100,000 persons are the Cherokee, Navajo, Chippewa, and Sioux

20% reside on 314 reservations, Indian lands, and in Alaska Villages

AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS

An Indian reservation is land a Tribe reserved for itself when it relinquished its other land areas to the U.S. through treaties. There are approximately 314 Indian land areas administered as reservations.

The 17- million acre Navajo Reservation of northern Arizona extends into New Mexico and Utah. It is larger than Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Jersey.

Over half of the total U.S. Indian and Alaska Native population now live away from reservations.

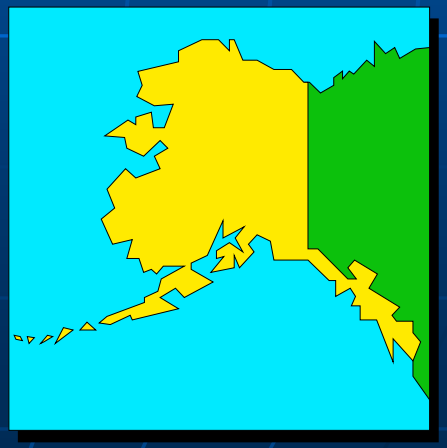
Alaska Trivia

1867 - The U.S. buys Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million

1880 - The first major discovery of gold in Alaska is made by Joe Juneau and Richard Harris near what would become the city of Juneau

1904 - The first commercial wireless communication facility in the U.S. is opened between Nome and St. Michael

1959 - Alaska becomes the 49th State



A L A S K A

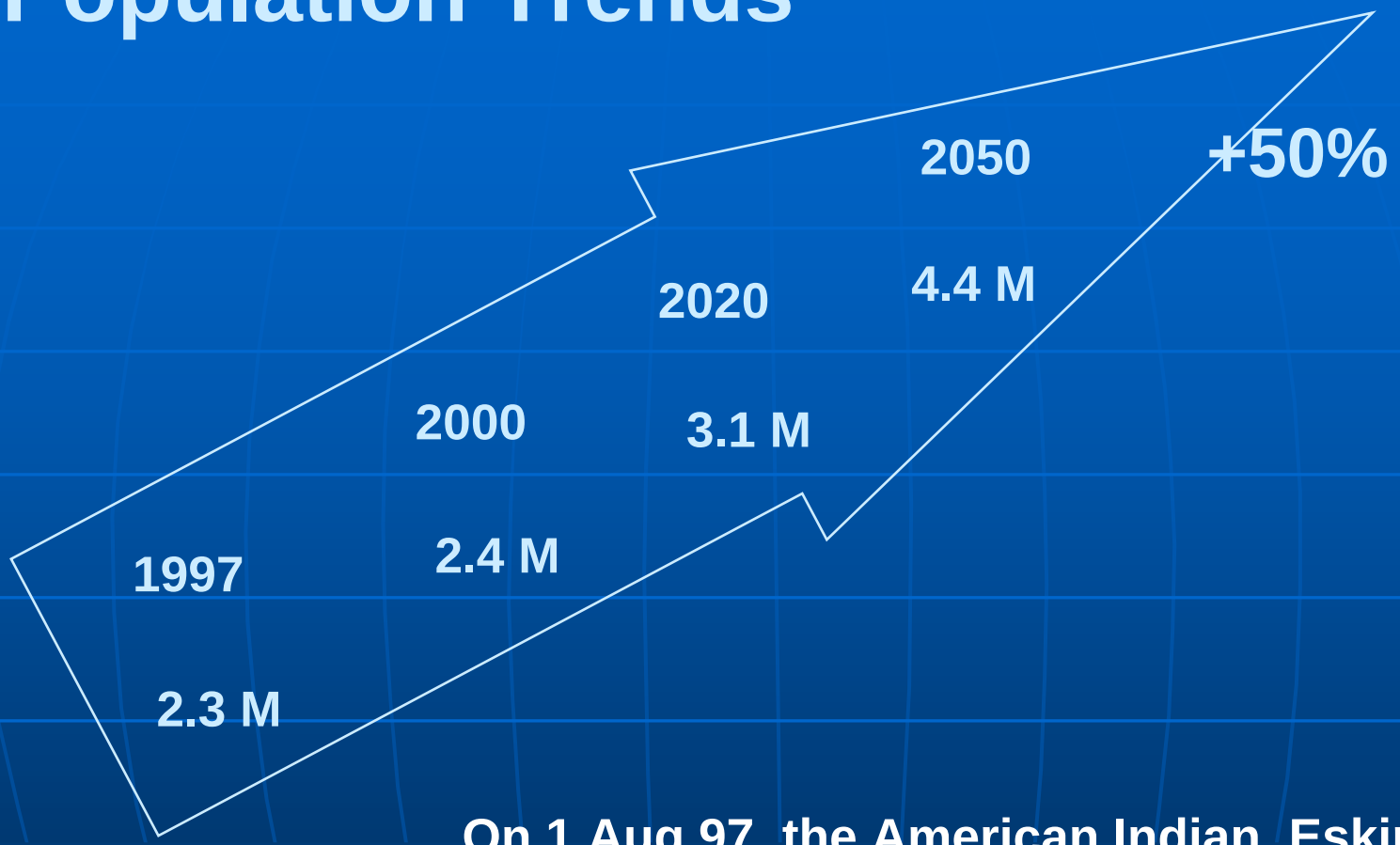
Has largest. . .

state in the Union

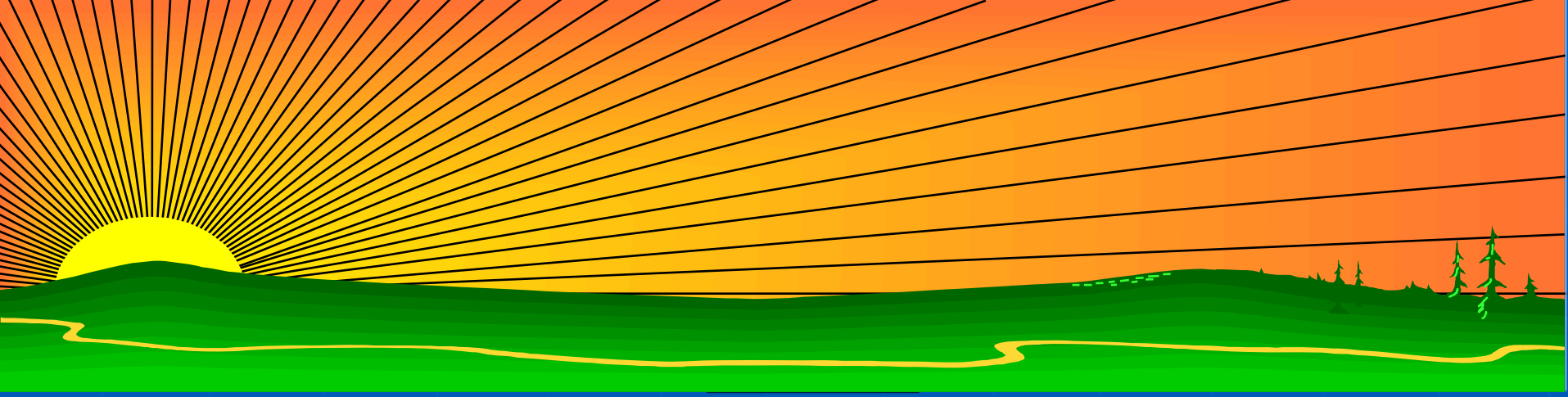
fresh water lake

concentration of Bald Eagles in the world

Population Trends



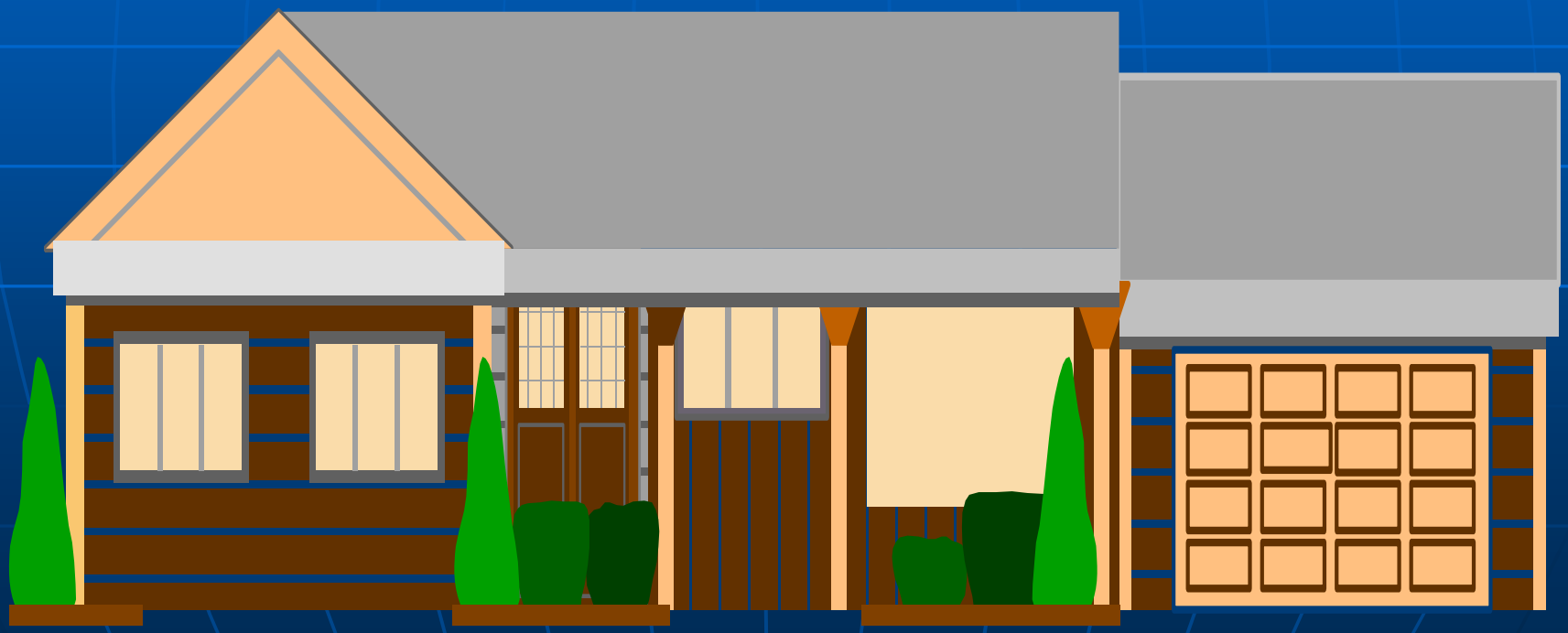
On 1 Aug 97, the American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut population stood at 2.3 million. Since 1 Jul 90, this group has grown 12 percent while the non - Hispanic White population increased 3 percent.



In 1995, more of the nation’s American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts lived in Oklahoma than in any other state

By 2025, Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Washington will be home to about 45 percent of the nation’s American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut population

Between 1997 and 2010, the number of American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut households in the United States is projected to climb from 713,397 to 906,036

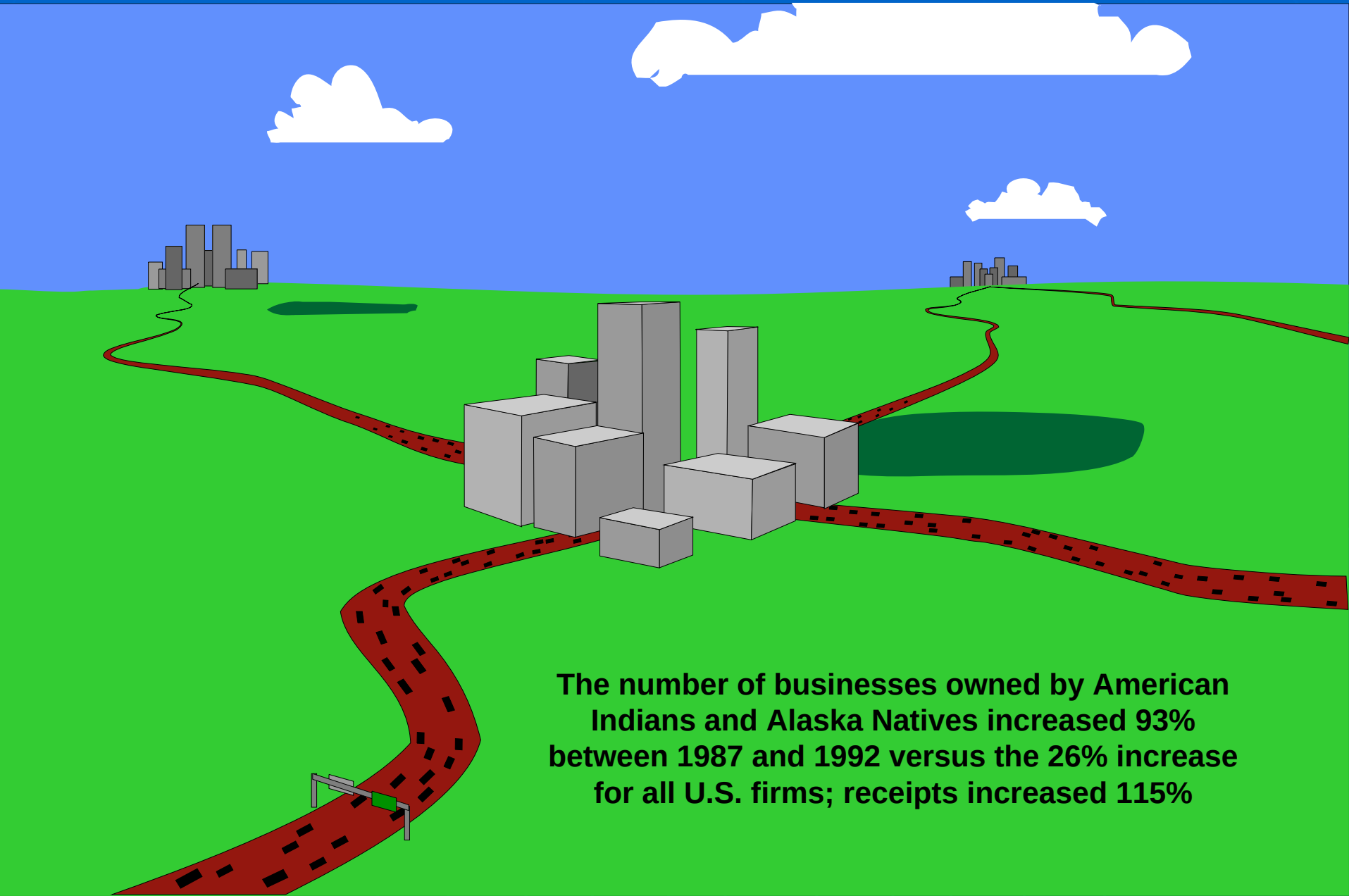


The median family income for American Indians is $21,750 compared with $35,225 for the total population.

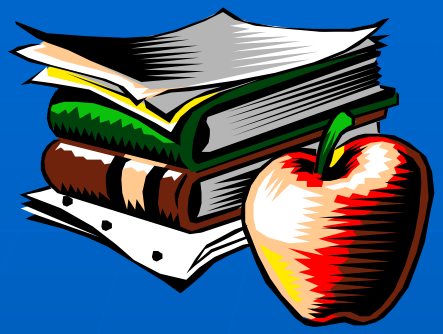
Approximately 31 percent of American Indians live in poverty, compared with 10 percent of all families in the nation.

The Indian population is the youngest on this Continent. Over 60% of Indian people are under 19 years of age.

BUSINESS



The number of businesses owned by American Indians and Alaska Natives increased 93% between 1987 and 1992 versus the 26% increase for all U.S. firms; receipts increased 115%



Native American Public Telecommunications

Vision Maker Video

American Indian Quarterly

Indian Artist Magazine

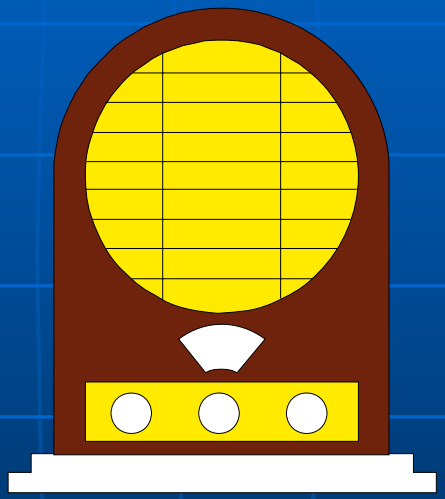
Indian Country Today

International Native News

Native Peoples Magazine

Oklahoma Indian Times

The Seminole Tribune



AIROS - Native America Calling

alterNative Voices

Mohawk Nation Radio

Northern Native Broadcast Yukon

Mainstream American Indians/ Alaskan Natives

Cher

Johnny Depp

Cameron Diaz

Anthony Quinn

Burt Reynolds

Elvis Presley

Hunter Tylo

James Earl Jones

Additional information is contained on note pages in the original PowerPoint presentation. If you would like a copy, please contact the TRADOC EEO Office.