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SOC 147 Our America

Prof. Perez

National Museum of the American Indian

The National Museum of the American Indian encourages a better sense of common humanity by fostering a more thorough understanding of Native peoples. The purpose of this museum, a location where live cultures are present, is to foster a greater awareness of Western Hemisphere Native peoples and their way of life, languages, literature, history, and arts.

In this visit, got to learn many things about the American Indian culture. One of the things I learned was that skin has a vast array of meanings for Native Americans. Animal hide or skin has a long tradition in Native American culture as a material. The artists chosen for "hide" explore this theme in a variety of ways, employing skin as both a material and a metaphor for general concerns about identity as well as for overcoming trauma from the past as well as current environmental and historical conditions. Also, I learned about the removal act and how it targeted all Indians in the U.S. Indians were not abruptly, quickly, or covertly removed from the American South. The act came about because of a long-running national discussion. Those in favor, led by President Andrew Jackson, saw Indian countries as a barrier to economic growth and a security risk. Native leaders were among those who opposed the measure, claiming that it violated democratic principles. At the end of the day, removal put the new nation to a moral test.

I also found interesting the rod "paracas", so did a little research on that because it stuck with me through all the visit, since I was interested in some vessels and bowls they had at the exhibition, which I found fascinating. I found out that the people of Paracas are renowned for

their pottery, which are highly polished, their textiles, particularly their ceremonial robes, and their ability with the trephine, a medical instrument used to drill into the skull to treat neurological conditions and brain injuries brought on by combat.

This museum taught me some things I didn't know about, as well as it showed me or reminded me of this that I have learned throughout the years of being in school. Never would I had thought that I would enjoy a visit to a museum like this. I would definitely return alone or maybe with some friends so that they can be amused by all the interesting things this museum has to show.