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### The National Museum of the American Indian

My visit to the National Museum of the American Indian was truly an eye opening experience. As most museums tend to initiate, I left there with a different perspective on American history. History that schools appear to have forgotten to teach, and that is the untold history of Native Americans. The reason being why I used the word “untold” is because my appreciation for Native Americans grew tremendously after my visit to their museum. I do not know for sure why this was placed in my community, but I do know that Native Americans had control of the exact piece of land that the museum is standing on. That is before Christopher Columbus came by and took over this land for himself. Also, just by critical thinking, I found it interesting how the museum is also located in downtown, New York. The place where all of the trades around the world come through that location. The way Native Americans traded their resources to us for military purposes.

This also ties to my next point. Among all the exhibits, what stood out to me the most was the involvement of Native Americans in our wars. Dating back to the American Revolution, Native Americans intended to be neutral between both sides. However, they did lean more towards the British, as they maintained their military resources in exchange for other goods and for a military alliance. Their choice to side with the British comes with a very valid excuse, I am sure they were frustrated with the

Americans swiftly taking over their land. However, leading to the victory America had, and the downfall of the British, the Native people lost their alliance and were left to stand alone against the United States, who were desperate for more land.

This historical fact stood out to me because as a nation that is known to be a superpower today, as well as the "Land of the Free", this was very cruel of us to take away someone's land. This is why this visit for me was a bit challenging, just to see what the Native Americans had to go through. For instance, in world war 1, Indigenous people fought in the first world war for patriotic reasons. They had to prove themselves in battle, for their own land. On top of this, after the war, many people expected the United States to reward the indigenous people for their efforts throughout the war. Therefore, congress granted citizenship in 1924. However, in order for them to achieve their citizenship, they must fight in other American wars. Therefore, this visit was a tremendous eye opening experience, as well as a great amount of respect towards them.