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Our America

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The National Museum of the American Indian is located in Washington D.C. It is a part of the Smithsonian Institution and is dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of Native Americans. The museum was opened in 2004 and has since become a cultural hub for Native American communities from all over the United States. In this essay, I will discuss the museum's history, its mission and goals, and the exhibits and events that it hosts.

The National Museum of the American Indian has a rich history. The idea for the museum was first proposed in the 1980s by Native American leaders and activists. They believed that a museum dedicated to Native American culture would help promote understanding and respect for Native American traditions and way of life. Congress eventually passed legislation in 1989 to establish the museum, and construction began in 1999. The museum finally opened its doors in 2004.

The museum's mission is to inspire a deeper understanding and appreciation of Native American cultures, histories, and accomplishments. It is dedicated to telling the stories of Native Americans through exhibits, programs, and events. The museum's goals are to educate the public about the diversity and complexity of Native American cultures, to provide a forum for Native American communities to share their stories and traditions, and to promote the continued survival and well-being of Native American peoples.

The museum's exhibits cover a wide range of topics related to Native American culture, history, and art. They include permanent exhibits, such as the "Our Universes" exhibit, which explores the cosmology and spirituality of Native American cultures, and the "Infinity of Nations" exhibit, which showcases the diversity and richness of Native American art and culture. The museum also hosts rotating exhibits on a variety of topics, such as the role of Native Americans in the Civil War, the impact of climate change on Native American communities, and the contributions of Native American women to art and culture.

In addition to its exhibits, the museum also hosts a variety of events and programs. These include lectures, workshops, film screenings, and performances by Native American artists and musicians. The museum also hosts an annual Native American Heritage Month celebration in November, which features special exhibits, performances, and educational programs.

The National Museum of the American Indian is an important institution that plays a crucial role in preserving and promoting Native American culture and heritage. Through its exhibits, events, and programs, the museum helps to educate the public about the diversity and richness of Native American traditions and way of life. It also provides a forum for Native American communities to share their stories and experiences with the wider world. By doing so, the museum helps to promote understanding, respect, and appreciation for Native American peoples and their contributions to American society. One exhibit that has received a lot of attention is "Infinity of Nations: Art and History in the Collections of the National Museum of the American Indian." This exhibit showcases over 700 works of Native American art from across the Americas, including pottery, basketry, textiles, and jewelry, among other mediums. The exhibit is organized geographically and explores the diversity and complexity of Native American cultures, highlighting the connections and differences between various tribes and regions. It also features interactive displays and multimedia presentations that help visitors engage with the art and history on display. Another exhibit that stands out is "Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and

American Indian Nations," which explores the history and ongoing significance of treaties between Native American nations and the United States government. This exhibit showcases original treaty documents, artwork, and multimedia displays to illustrate the complex and often contentious relationships between Native American communities and the U.S. government.