

name: class: date:

Oral History and Early American Literature



Oral history played a pivotal role in the shaping of _____ American literature, long before the written word became prevalent. Native American tribes used storytelling to pass down their _____, cultures, and _____. These stories were not just entertainment; they served as a living _____ of the tribe's heritage. In these tales, every animal, tree, and river had a spirit and a _____ to teach. The storyteller, often a respected elder, would gather the _____ under the stars and share tales that had been told for generations. These narratives were full of _____, tricksters, and moral dilemmas that taught values and _____ of the society. European _____ brought their own oral traditions, which blended with the Native ones, creating a rich tapestry of American _____. This exchange was crucial in the _____ of what would become American literature. Oral stories were the first to explore themes of _____, survival, and identity in the New World. They laid the groundwork for the written literature to come, preserving voices that might have otherwise been _____. As America grew, these oral traditions found their way into written _____, influencing authors and their stories. They remind us that the power of the spoken word can shape history and _____ just as profoundly as any book.

development

Early

heroes

forms

lost

lesson

beliefs

archive

culture

community

laws

folklore

freedom

histories

settlers