Many different cultures. No single “Indian” view of nature. But there are some commonalities.

• Nature is something we live within and as a part of it. No essential separation: no transcendental dualism, no Enlightenment search for objectivity, no Puritan fear of dangerous, chaotic nature, not distant observation in Romanticism.

• Nature is the location of spirituality reality, both individual beings (usually animals) and a more general sense of the sacred.

• Its spiritual value calls for reverence, respect, and humility in our relationship with nature.

• But nature is also something that is used.

• Not in the Enlightenment sense of conquering and controlling for our material gain, with a sense of superiority toward nature.

• “You say that I use the land, and I reply, yes, it is true; but it is not the first truth. The first truth is that I love the land; I see that it is beautiful; I delight in it; I am alive in it.” (N. Scott Momaday)

Native Americans

• Paleo-Indians probably helped cause the extinction of large mammals in North America.

• Later Indians came to recognize the spiritual value of what they used and the need to use is sustainably. They developed a moral and conservationist relationship with nature. (N. Scott Momaday)

• Hunting practices. Hunters must spiritually prepare for the hunt so they can be deserving, be respectful and humble during the hunt, and be reverent and grateful after the hunt.

• Resource management. Native Americans were not passive parts of the wilderness but intelligently used fire to increase its generosity.