Differences and similarities between Native Americans and Latinos.

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The following essay, draw some contrasts and similarities between Native American core cultural values and the Hispanic (Latino) culture values and associated behaviors and attitudes. Been more specific, this study is a direct comparison between my perspectives as an immigrant Latino in first grade, with possible stereotypes of Native American Culture Indians.

Family values

Native Americans highly value traditional beliefs concerning relation, harmony, balance, spirituality, and wellness; as part of valuing "relation" all these beliefs are interrelated. Most Native American families are extended

Latinos, Family ties are very strong, Hispanic families instill in our children the importance of honor, good manner, and respect for authority and the elderly, and we try/teach to preserve our language (Spanish) with our kids.

Personal differences

Native Americans, They respect the unique individual differences among people. Regularly they try to stay out of other affairs.

Latinos, we tend to avoid competition and activities that will set us apart from a group, we usually look for role models to follow and become like them. We have an interdependence.

Quietness

Native American, Silence is a value that serve many purposes in Indian life, in a social situation when they are angry or uncomfortable they remain silent.

Latinos, we are very talkative people, but we recognize the importance of the silence in some social situation. Restraint of feelings, particularly anger and frustration.

Patience
In Native American life, the virtue of patience is based on the belief that all things unfold in time, and as a respect for individuals.

Latinos, we are patience, but is mostly a virtue that not of all can say that have in abundance.

Open work ethic

In the Indian life work is oriented to distinct purpose and will be done when it needs to be done. Only that which is actually needed is accumulated through work.

The Latino community is very hard working and we believe that if we work enough we will provide to our families with all what they need, and we believe in the culture in save for the future.

Mutualism

Native American Culture, Mutualism promotes a sense of belonging and solidarity with Group members cooperating to gain group security and consensus.

Latino community, we have the sense of collectivity, we poses a group identity, and interdependence and we are very cooperative.

Nonverbal orientation

Indians have tended to prefer listening rather than speaking, Talking for talking’s sake is rarely practiced. Latinos, Preference for closer personal space; avoidance of eye contact when listening or speaking to authority figures

Time orientation

Native Americans, In the Indian world, things happen when they are ready to happen. Time is
Relatively flexible and generally not structured into compartments as it is in modern society.

They are Orientation and the immediate task at hand.

Latinos, we have a Present time perspective; relaxed about time and punctuality; and immediate short-term goals.

Spirituality

Central to Native American spiritual traditions is the importance of "relation" as a way of existing in the world. The power of relation is symbolized by the Circle of Life. Unlike Western spirituality, religion is a way of life (Atwood, 1991). In many Native American languages, there is no word for "religion" because spiritual practices are an integral part of every aspect of daily life; spirituality is necessary for the harmony and balance, or wellness, of the individual, family, clan and community (Locust, 1988).

Religion plays a central role in the lives of Hispanic/Latino Americans. In my family’s case, is a way of life that help us to stay in harmony with God, keep our health and keep our family together.

These brief descriptions are somewhat idealized. They cannot reflect the wide Variations within Native American communities and Hispanic culture, due to the different levels of cultural assimilation among individual of both cultures, but shows a clear understanding that no matter where we come from, it's always possible to find familiarity and similarities between different ethnicities.
Native American Indians
• Personal Differences
• Quietness
• Open work ethic
• Nonverbal orientation
• Time Orientation

Similitudes
• Family
• Patience
• Mutualism
• Spirituality
• Special and ceremonial costumes
• Ceremonial dances
• different language

Hispanic (Latinos)
• Quietness
• Personal Differences
• Open work ethic
• Nonverbal orientation
• Time Orientation
References:

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