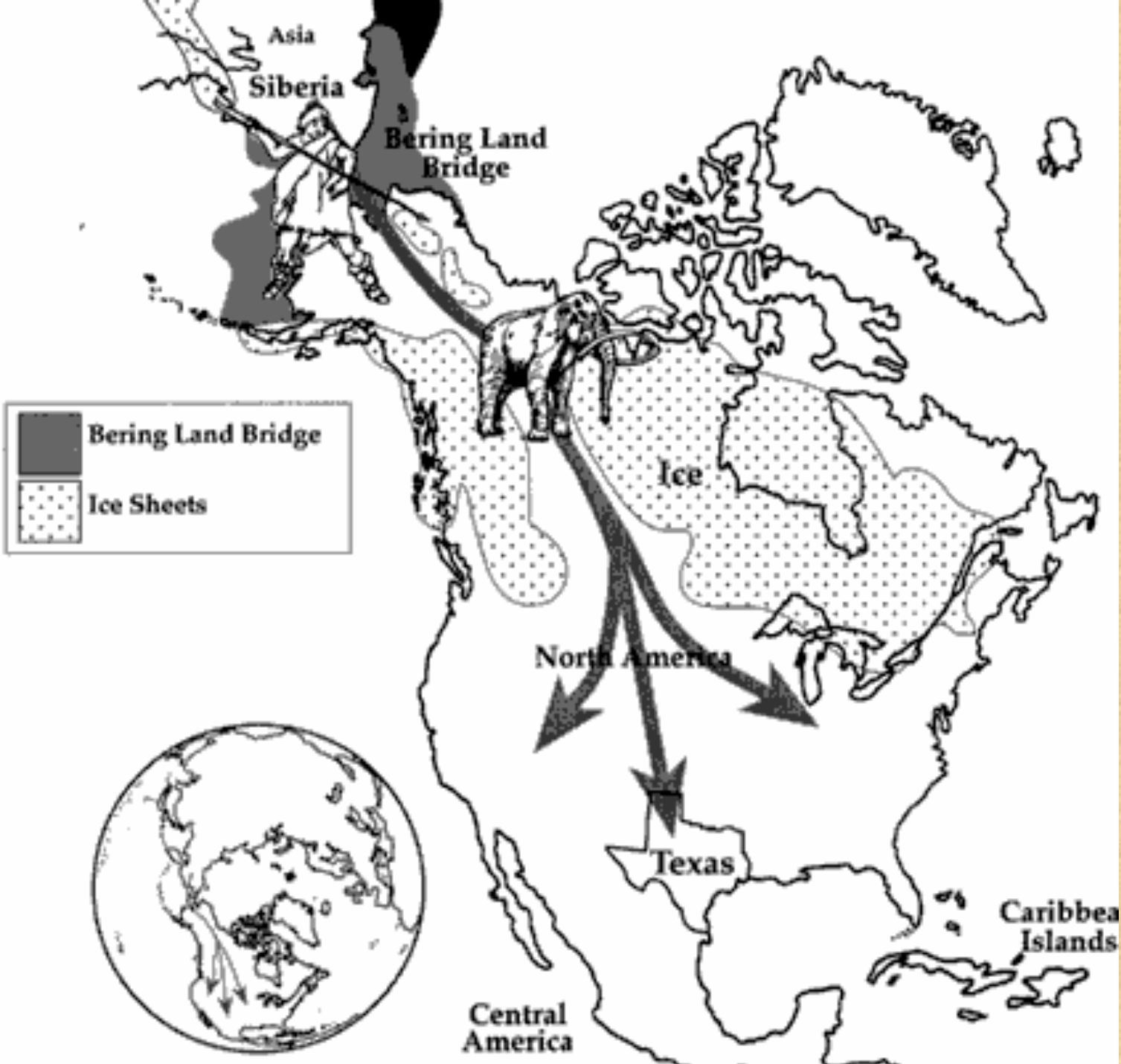


# NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIONS





**Native  
American  
migration to  
North  
America—  
ca. 15-20,000  
years ago**



**There were approximately 2000 different Native American groups when Western Europeans came to North America. There are no written accounts of that period before the “white man” came to this continent.**



# **Native American religious beliefs:**

- 1. No single faith or religion**
- 2. Polytheistic—but with a High God monotheism**
- 3. Animism—spirit-filled world**
- 4. Sacrifice—not central part of religion (seldom human in NA)**
- 5. Taboos—blood, the dead,**
- 6. Ceremonies—dance was central**
- 7. Vision Quest—for adolescent males generally**
- 8. Totemism and Vision Quest**
- 9. No real priesthood because of the low importance of sacrifice**
- 10. Medicine person—closest thing to priest**
- 11. Tobacco and peyote**

# **Death and the Afterlife**

**Overall, Native Americans possess two souls—one of which is housed in the body until death and then that soul dies.**

**The second soul, a “free spirit” soul, floats around and at death dies and then goes to a place of the dead (similar to Sheol).**

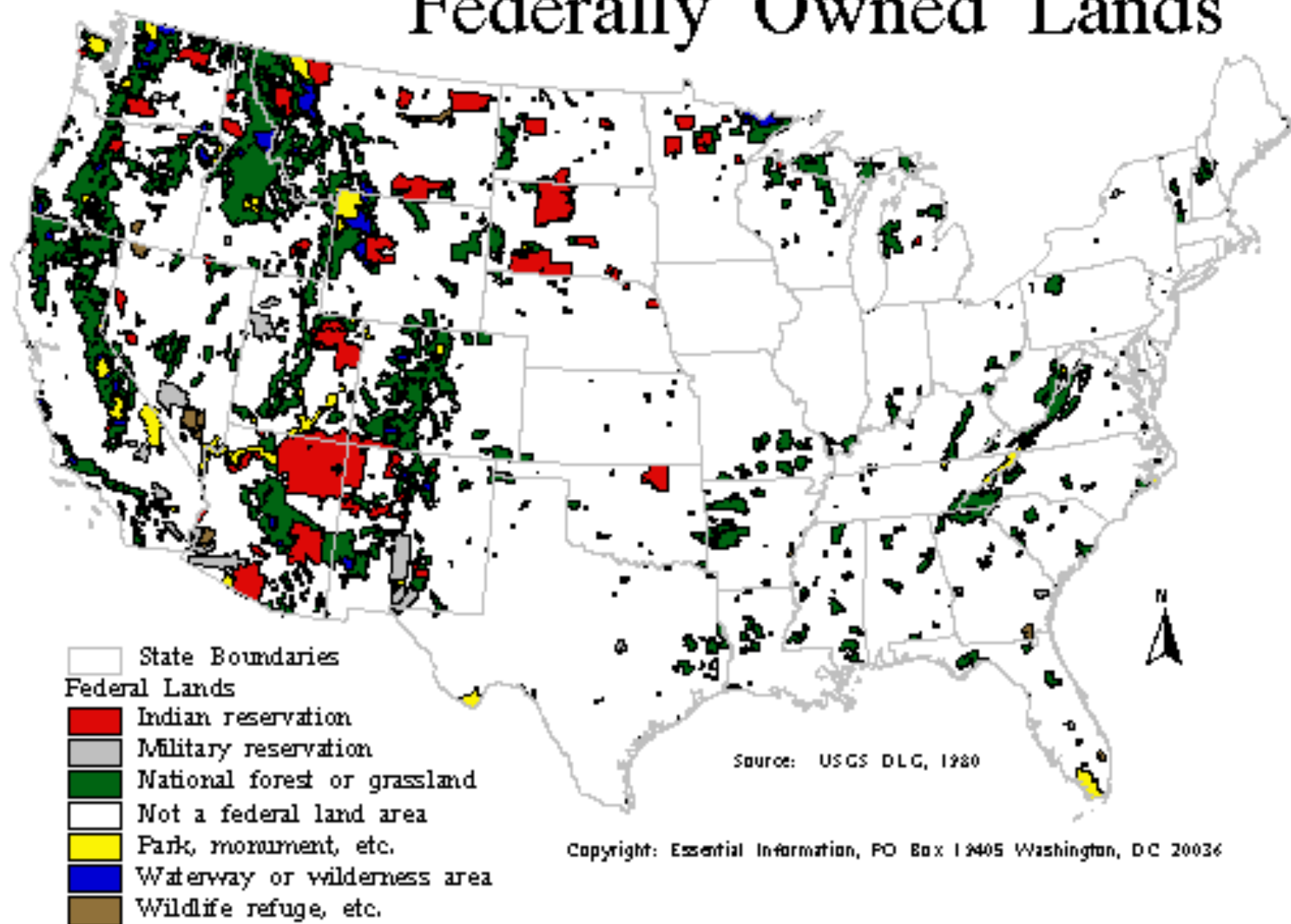
**It is critical that the deceased is remembered by the living or else the dead person really dies—permanently.**





**An Iroquois funeral observed by  
a French Jesuit, early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.**

# Federally Owned Lands



# Native American State Populations

134,355-252,240

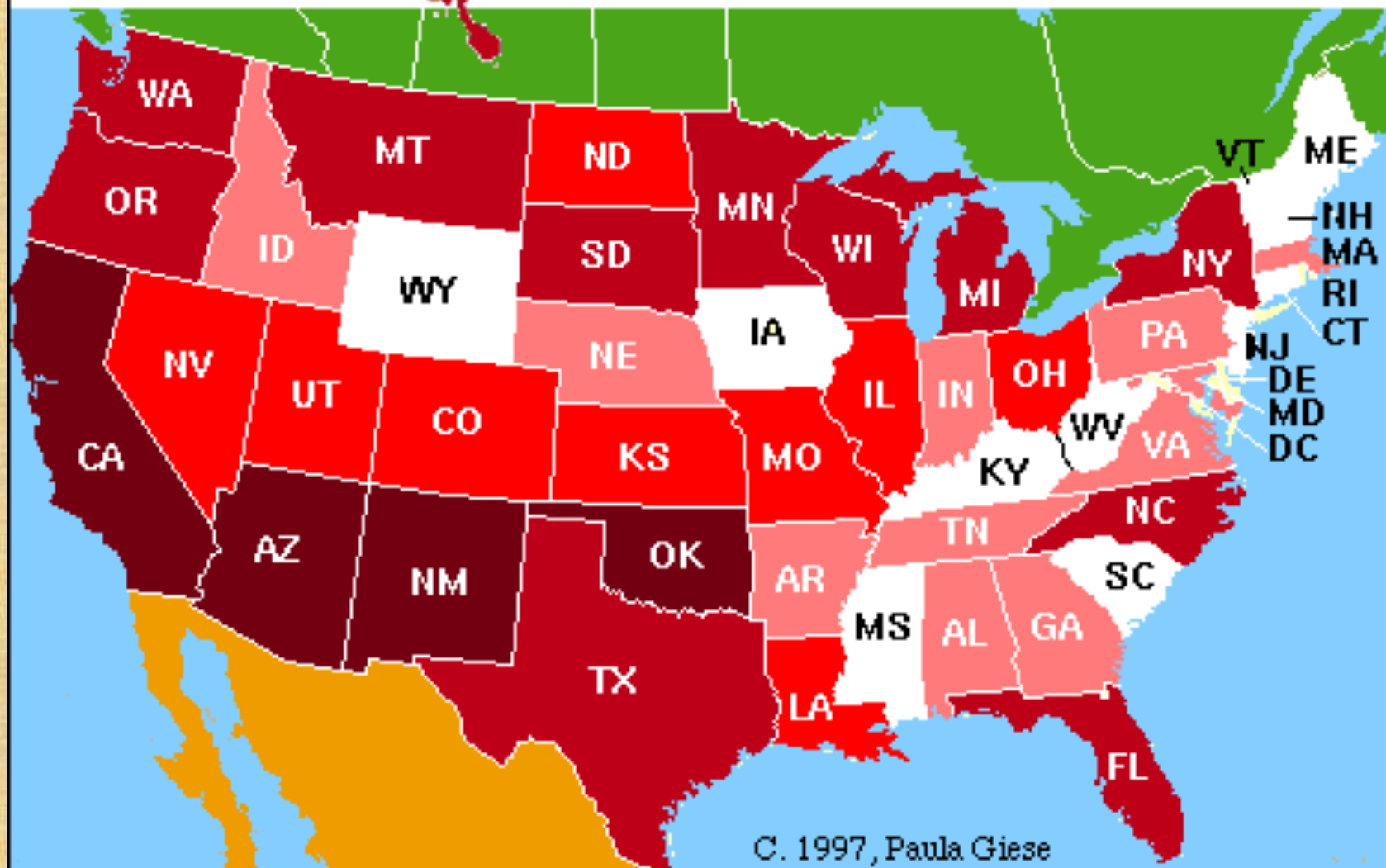
36,355-85,698

18,541-27,776

10,039-16,506

1,696-9,479

U.S. 1990 Census





# Interesting web sites:

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/settlements/index.shtml>

<http://www.angelfire.com/realm/shades/nativeamericans/1maps.htm>