

NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATIONS

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INTRODUCTION:

DEFINITION: A Native American reservation is an area of land that is owned and governed by a Native American tribe and managed by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs. Such reservation is not required to follow the state government laws in which the area is located.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this research is to spread awareness about society's current state of knowledge regarding Native American Reservations and Native American culture in a variety of contexts.

APPLICATION: This research is intended to educate others on Native American culture.

OUR FOCUSES:

(Our team asked members of the Native American House and students on our campus to share their knowledge on Native American culture with us.)

Native American Literature

"It offers an important narrative that usually isn't acknowledged"- Anonymous Respondent
Because Americans can't keep getting away with conquering and controlling other people.

What we did to Native Americans was atrocious."- Anonymous Respondent

Native American Culture in the Media

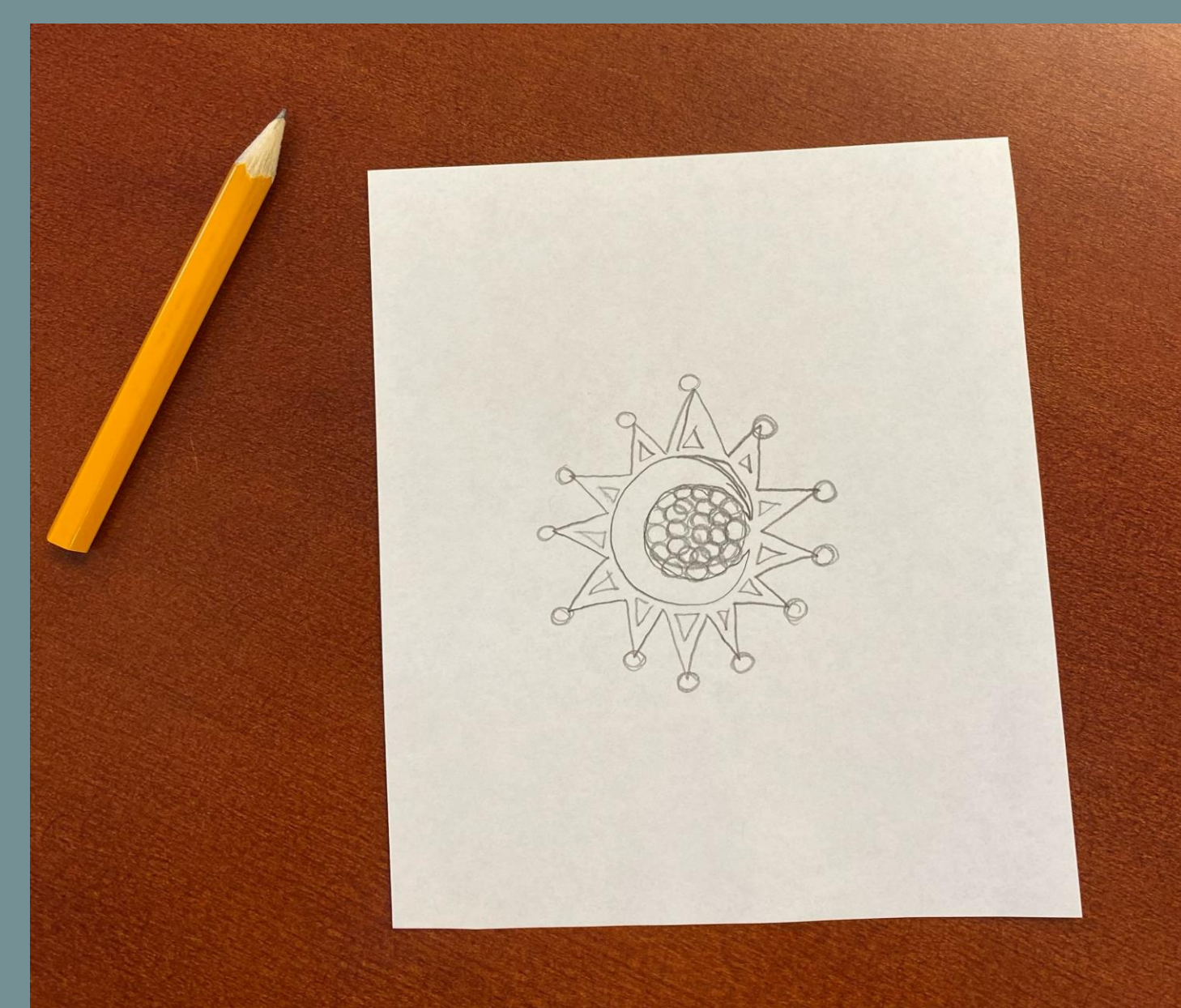
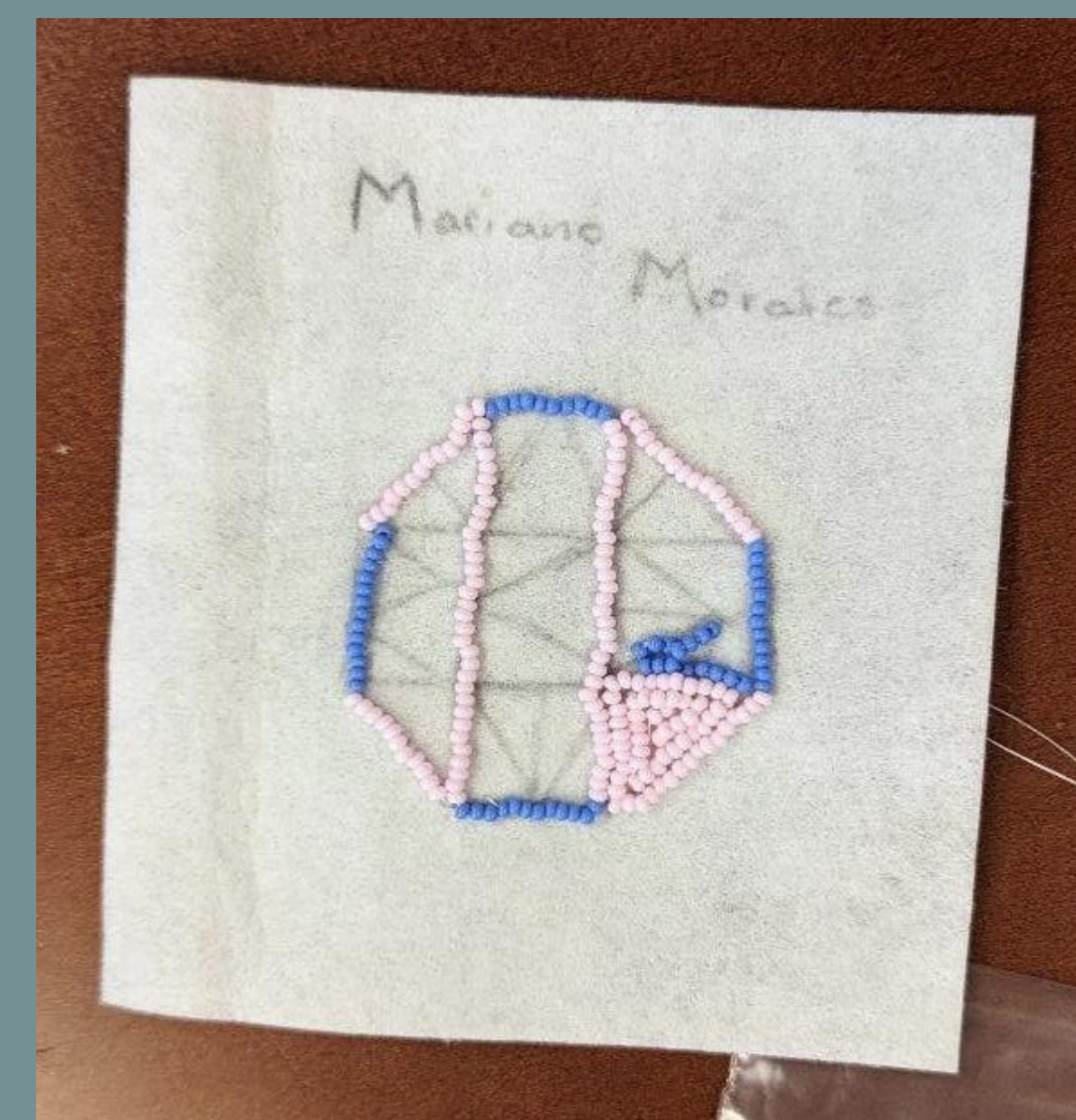
-Recipients of the survey selected the answer choice "Not very accurate" when asked how accurate the depiction of Native American culture is in the media.

RESEARCH ELEMENTS:

RESEARCH QUESTION: How have the creation and evolution of Native American reservations affected Native American culture and cultural heritage?

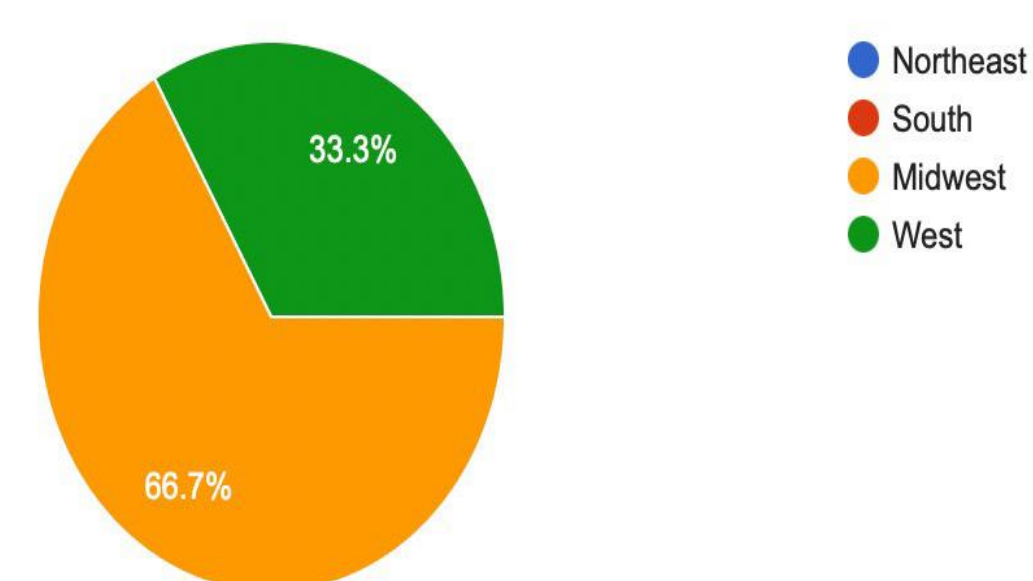
METHODOLOGY: In order to conduct participant observation, our team visited the Native American house, located on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's campus, located on 1206 W. Nevada St., Urbana, IL 61801. In addition, our team conducted a survey via Google Forms to gain more information about various elements of Native American culture including: **Native American Literature, laws surrounding Native American Reservations, and Native American representation in the media.**

OBSERVATIONS: Our team observed the process of creating traditional bead-work (pictured below).



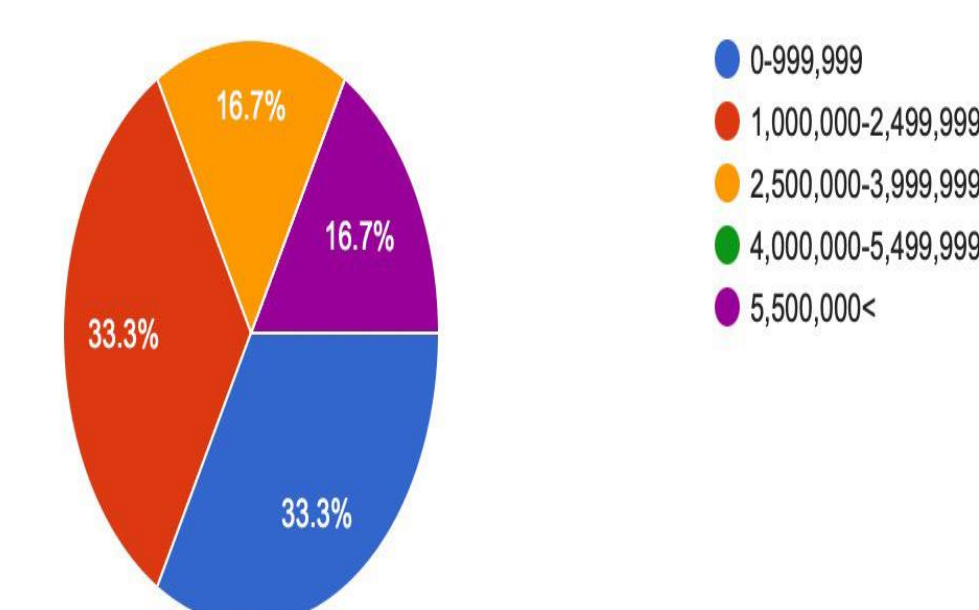
GRAPHS:

There are 326 Native American reservation in the United States today. Which region do you think has the most reservations?



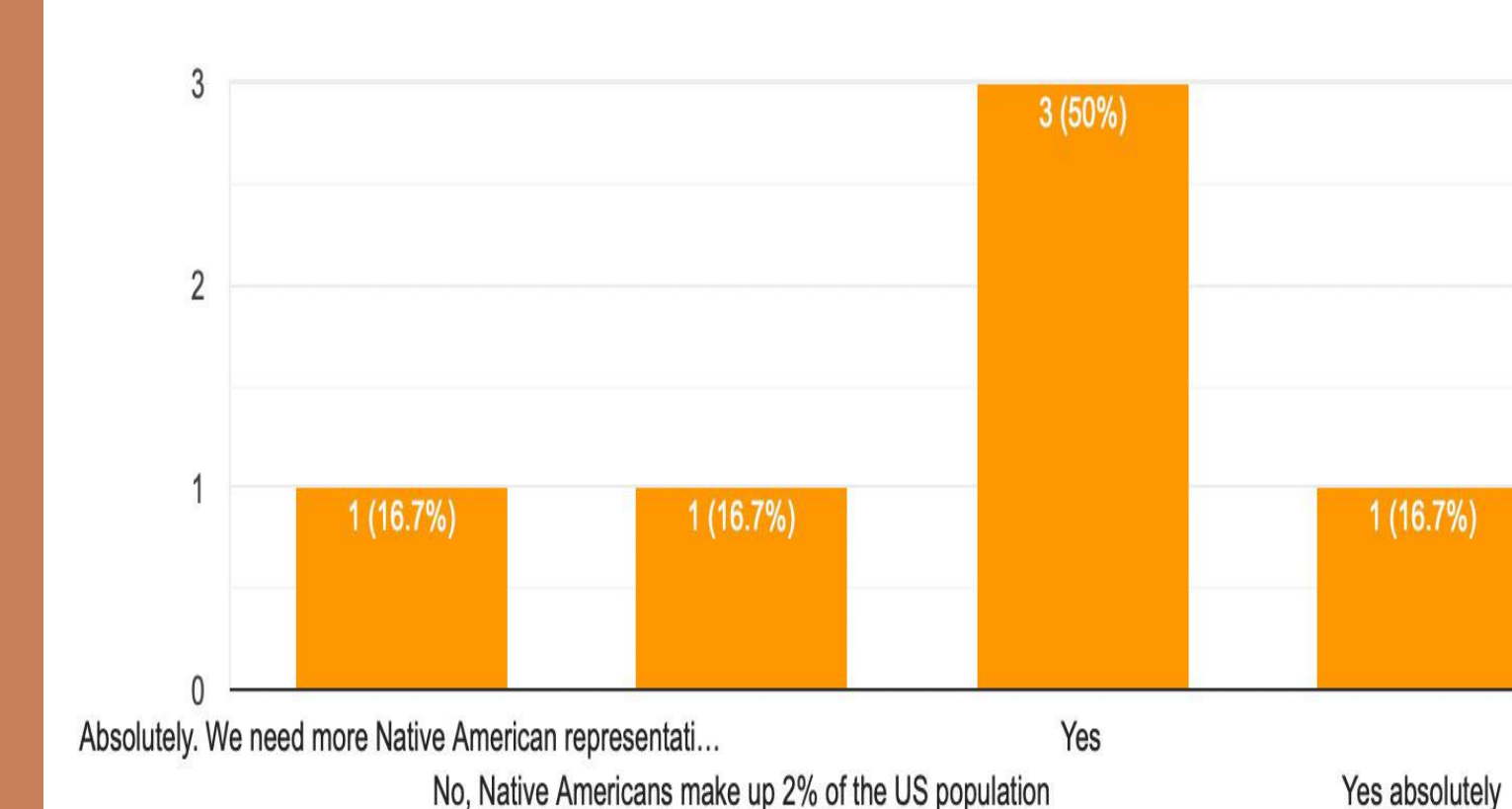
The Western part of the country is home to the highest concentration of Native Americans in the U.S.

How many Native Americans do you think live in the United States today?



The population of Native American people in the U.S. is 2.757 million (2019)

Do you think Native American history is underrepresented?



OUR FOCUSES (CONT.):

Native American Reservation Laws

"(Reservations) can monitor their own government, but if they stop paying taxes they will forfeit the \$2.4 billion dollar funding that the BIA gets every year. The funding far outpaces the cost of taxes." – Anonymous Survey Respondent

What is your current knowledge about the current laws and regulations surrounding Native American Reservations?

- "Not a lot, sadly."
- My only knowledge is that they are separate from the state and fall under their own jurisdiction.

RESULTS / CONCLUSIONS:

So, have Native American Reservations helped preserve Native American culture?

- In accordance with the results of our research, the general public has little to no knowledge of Native American culture or reservations.

HOW WE SAW LACK OF REPRESENTATION IN OUR RESEARCH:

-The answers to our questions on our survey showed how little people know about reservations, saying how they did not learn anything about them in schools and how you don't see them represented

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Images from the creation of bead work at Native American House by Casey Conway and Brooklyn Gonzalez