



More than 200 years ago, this country, now called the United States, was a wilderness, inhabited by Indians, who subsisted upon fish, and the flesh of wild animals which they killed in hunting, and who lived in huts made of bark and the skins of animals.

No cities were built until the country was settled by white men, who came from Europe; and, probably, where your house now stands, Indians once chased the buffalo, bear, or some other wild animal.

Many of the white settlers of this country suffered great cruelties from the Indians, who burned their houses and murdered men, women, and children, as you see in the picture. The Indians now live mostly west of the Mississippi River.

The first inhabitants of a place are called settlers, or colonists.