



# Native language speakers dwindling

Language scholars estimate that, before the time of Columbus, about 300 languages were spoken in North America. Since then, the number has dropped to about 175. One estimate predicts the number will dwindle to 20 by the year 2050.

## Regional census of selected native languages

Language	Speakers	Location
Arikara	90	N.D.
Blackfoot	1,062	Mont.
Caddo	141	Okla.
Crow	4,280	Mont.
Dakota	20,355	Neb., Minn., S.D., N.D., Mont.
Gros Ventre	10	Mont.
Hidatsa	100	N.D.
Lakota	6,000	Neb., Minn., S.D., N.D., Mont.
Mandan	6	N.D.
Ojibwe (western)	35,000	Mont., Lake Superior region, N.D.

Note: Estimates, as of October 1999, do not assess fluency.

Sources: National Clearinghouse for Bilingual Education, adapted from Ethnologue: Languages of the World