WHAT'S IN YOUR MIND?
Long before the first Europeans travelled to America, Native Americans lived there. These are the people whom we often refer to as ‘Indians’. Even if you have never studied Native Americans before, you will probably have images of ‘Indians’ in your mind.

Before you begin to find out more about Native Americans, it is a good idea to think about the different kinds of images that books, films or TV present of them. Then think about what images you have in your mind already. After you have found out more about Native American ‘Indians’, you may decide that some of these images are correct. You may decide that some of them are wrong and misleading.

NEW WORDS
HOLLYWOOD: the area of the USA famous for its film studios.
IMAGES: a mental picture, or set of ideas.
REDSKINS: White nickname for Native Americans – offensive to them as it comes from a time when Whites were rewarded for the number of ‘Indians’ they could kill and skin.
‘WALK OF FAME’: the part of Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, where film stars’ names are recorded in metal stars on the pavement.

SOURCE A
American Indian Review
Although films about 'Indians' have been made since the earliest days of Hollywood, it wasn’t until 1979 that a Native American actor, named Jay Silverheels, got his name included on the metal stars in Hollywood's 'Walk of Fame'. Jay played Tonto in The Lone Ranger, a popular 1950s TV programme.

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SOURCE B


SOURCE C

Badge of the US football team the Washington Redskins, shown on a player's helmet.

SOURCE D

Native American warriors from the film 'Last of the Mohicans'.

SOURCE E

'The Buffalo Hunter', by Seth Eastman.

Q 1. Make a spidergram showing all the things you associate with Native American 'Indians'. Then explain where you have got these ideas from.

2. Look at Sources A–E. If you were a modern Native American which of these ‘images’ would you approve of, which would you disapprove of?

Explain why.