

NOVEMBER IS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Office of Education

learn • lead • achieve

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Use these materials to begin a conversation with elementary grade students about Native American heritage and the impact that Native Americans have had on American society and culture.

GUIDING QUESTION

How have the customs and traditions of Native Americans helped shape American culture?



EXPLORE

- Learn about the **Native American names of American landmarks** from Smithsonian's Tween Tribune -- *Please note: Lexile level of text can be adjusted to meet the needs of the reader*
<https://www.tweentribune.com/article/tween56/denali-ongtupqa-and-other-native-american-names-landmarks/>
- Listen to **American Indian Flute Music** from Smithsonian Folkways
<https://folkways.si.edu/american-indian-flute-music/music/playlist/smithsonian>



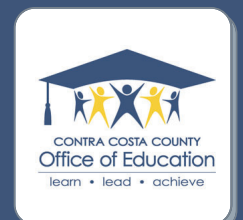
EXPLAIN

- What are some examples of Native American history, culture, and traditions that you learned about as you explored the resources above?
- What questions might you ask a Native American to learn more about their culture and traditions? (*Social Justice Standard D.1.3-5.8*)



ENGAGE FURTHER

- **Connect with Native American cuisine** with the First Nations Development Institute
<https://www.firstnations.org/knowledge-center/recipes>
- **Pick a book** from First Nations Development Institute's Recommended Reading List
https://www.firstnations.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Revised_Book_Insert_Web_Version_March_2018.pdf



SECONDARY LEVEL

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Use these materials to begin a conversation with secondary grade students about Native American heritage and the impact that Native Americans have had on American society and culture.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How have Native Americans contributed to the economic, political, and social development of California and the Nation?



EXPLORE

- Take a virtual field trip to the **Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian**
<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/national-museum-of-the-american-indian>
- Learn about the **Native American Code Talkers** from the National Air and Space Museum
<https://artsandculture.google.com/exhibit/native-american-code-talkers/FwLCAYZ9wwV7Jw>
- Listen to **American Indian Flute Music** from Smithsonian Folkways
<https://folkways.si.edu/american-indian-flute-music/music/playlist/smithsonian>
- **Listen to a TED Talk** about the modern Native American experience
https://www.ted.com/talks/ron_mugsahkwat_corn_jr_native_american_culture_language_the_key_to_everything?language=en



EXPLAIN

- Based on the resources above, share what you have learned about Native American heritage and the impact that Native American have had on our state and country.
- As you explored the resources, what aspects of Native American heritage and the lived experiences of contemporary Native Americans are you newly curious about? (*Social Justice Standard D.I. 9-12.8*)



ENGAGE FURTHER

- **Connect with Native American cuisine** with the First Nations Development Institute
<https://www.firstnations.org/knowledge-center/recipes>
- **Pick a book** from the First Nations Development Institute's Recommended Reading List
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