

Native American Heritage Month

Past and Present



Why do we celebrate Native American Heritage Month?



- Commonly referred to as American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month
- The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people

Native American Recognition Timeline

1900s

Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian and Director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans”.

1915

Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state gaining approval for a day that honors Native Americans. On December 14th 1915, he rode to the White House and showcased the support from 24 states. No record of a proclamation for a national american indians day was made.

1915

The American Association president; Reverend Sherman Coolidge and Arapahoe Native American Indian, called upon the country to observe a day for American Indians. Rev. Coolidge made a proclamation that the second Saturday in May was American Indian Day and calling the country to recognize American Indians as citizens.

1916

The Governor of New York was the first to declare and celebrate the second Saturday of May as American Indian Day.

1990

President George. H. W. Bush approve the joint resolution designating the month of November “National American Indian Heritage Month.”

2021

Since 1990 individual states recognized the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, replacing Columbus Day. On October 8th 2021, President Joe Biden proclaimed October 11th Indigenous Peoples Day.

Vocabulary

- Term 'Native American' includes over 500 different groups and reflects great diversity of geographic location, language, socioeconomic conditions, school experience, and retention of traditional spiritual and cultural practices
- American Indian, Indian, Native American, or Native are acceptable and often used interchangeably in the United States; however, Native Peoples often have individual preferences on how they would like to be addressed
 - To find out which term is best, ask the person or group which term they prefer

The image features a dark grey background with the text 'Land Acknowledgment' centered in a bold, light beige sans-serif font. The text is flanked by decorative geometric patterns in the corners and along the top and bottom edges. These patterns include lines, triangles, and zig-zags in shades of purple, teal, and beige. A small beige dot is positioned at the top center and bottom center of the page, between the decorative borders.

Land Acknowledgment

Land Acknowledgment

What is It?

- Traditional custom that dates back centuries in many Native nations and communities
- Used by Native Peoples and non-Natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original inhabitants of the lands on which we now live

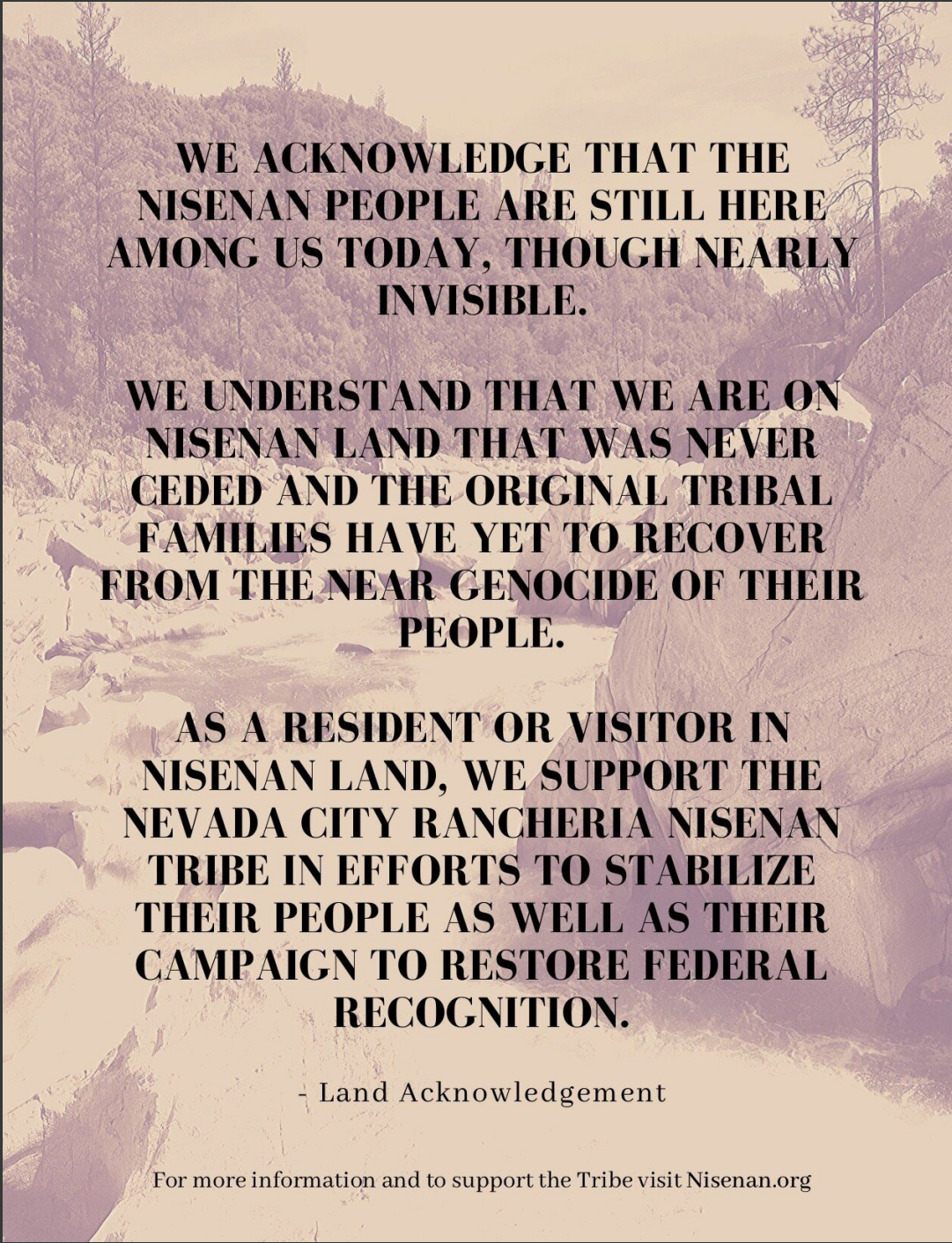
Why is it important?

- “It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation.” Northwestern University
- “When we talk about land, land is part of who we are. It’s a mixture of our blood, our past, our current, and our future. We carry our ancestors in us, and they’re around us. As you all do.” Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)



Sacramento County Tribe

- Folsom and Rancho Cordova are located on the ancestral homelands of Nisenan people
- Nisenan people lived here 1,500 years before European explorers made contact with them in the early 1800's
- Name Nisenan derives from the plural pronoun nisenan, "from among us".
- Nisenan language has 13 dialects
- Nisenan hunted and consumed all available types of animals, but not coyotes because they believed that coyotes embodied the souls of Nisenan ancestors
- Valley Nisenan lived along the valley drainages and were river-oriented in their lifeways



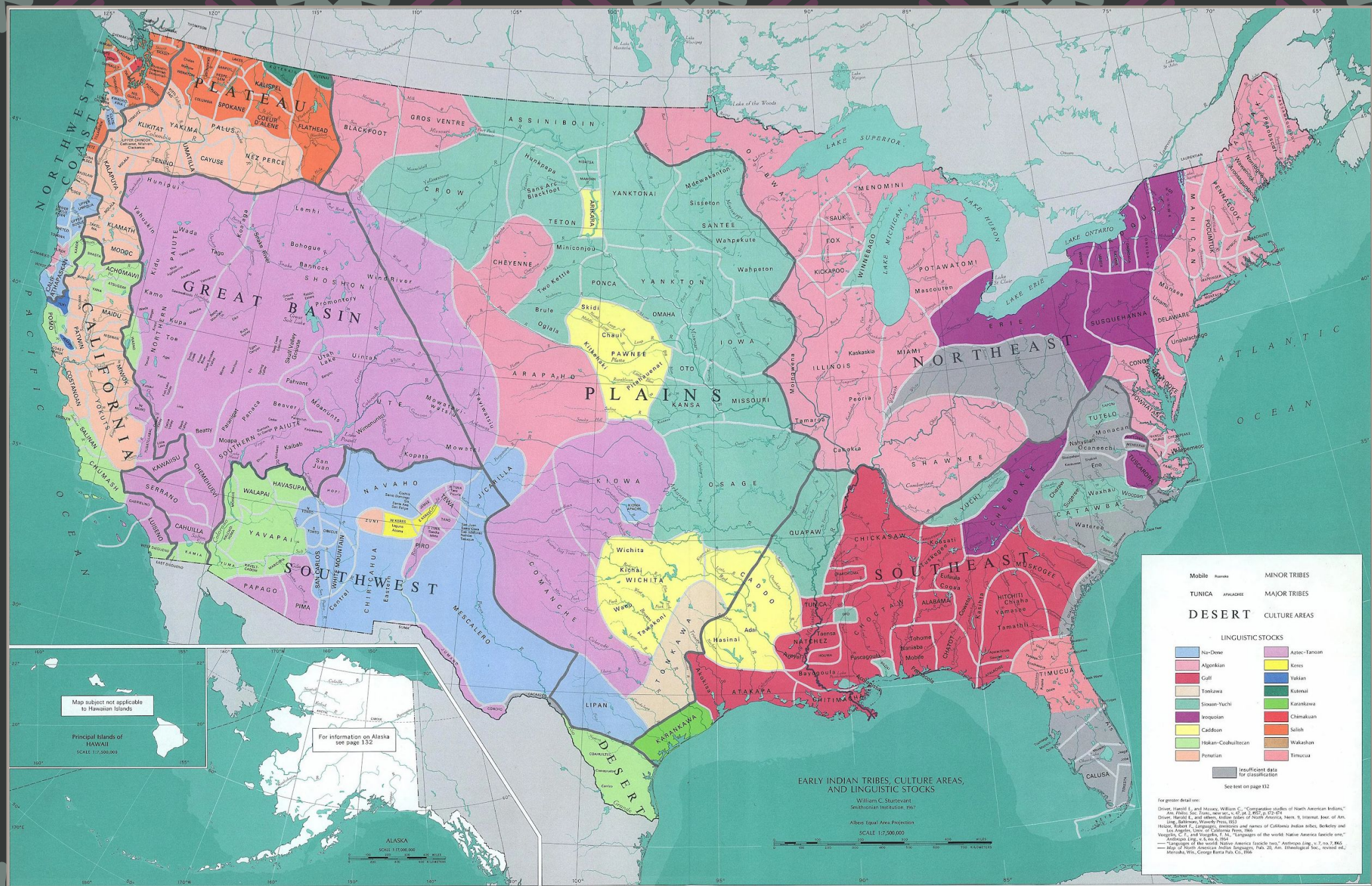
**WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE
NISENAN PEOPLE ARE STILL HERE
AMONG US TODAY, THOUGH NEARLY
INVISIBLE.**

**WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE ON
NISENAN LAND THAT WAS NEVER
CEDED AND THE ORIGINAL TRIBAL
FAMILIES HAVE YET TO RECOVER
FROM THE NEAR GENOCIDE OF THEIR
PEOPLE.**

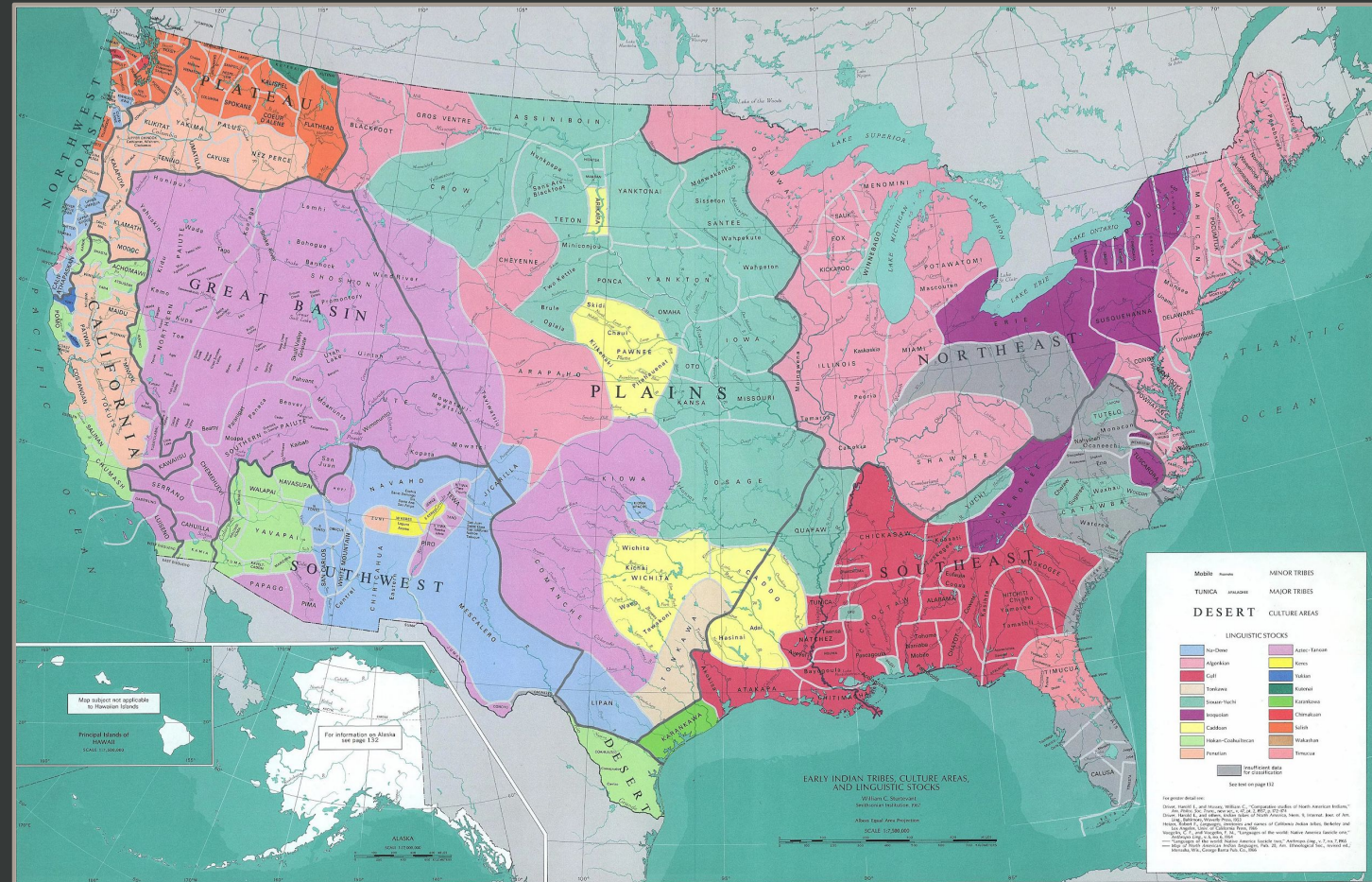
**AS A RESIDENT OR VISITOR IN
NISENAN LAND, WE SUPPORT THE
NEVADA CITY RANCHERIA NISENAN
TRIBE IN EFFORTS TO STABILIZE
THEIR PEOPLE AS WELL AS THEIR
CAMPAIGN TO RESTORE FEDERAL
RECOGNITION.**

- Land Acknowledgement

For more information and to support the Tribe visit Nisenan.org



- [Click here](#) to find territories, languages and treaties by inserting your zip code



The background is a dark charcoal grey. It features decorative geometric patterns in the corners and along the top and bottom edges. The corner patterns are composed of nested lines in shades of teal, brown, and purple, some with small triangular or square notches. The top and bottom borders consist of a series of purple triangles pointing inwards, with a small brown circle centered between the two borders.

Facts

POWWOWS



- A PowWow is a Native American tradition that brings together many different tribes and communities
- It's a special event for Native American communities that celebrates dance, song, socializing and honors a rich heritage

JINGLE DRESS DANCING - A NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITION

MULTICULTURAL KID BLOGS

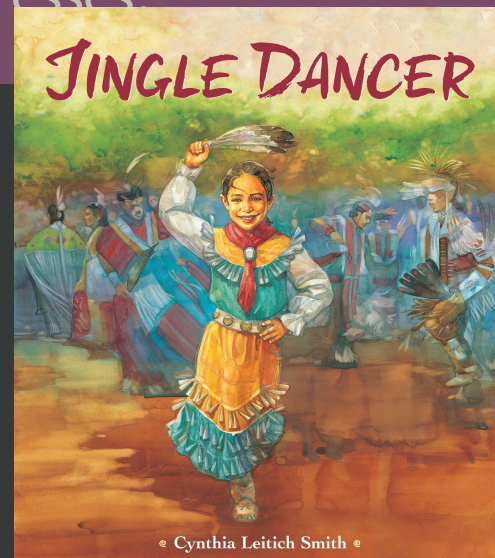


[Click above to learn more.](#)

Jingle Dress Dance

The Jingle Dress dance is commonly seen in competitive powwows today, performed by women and girls in First Nations and Native American communities.

The dance gets its name from the rows of metal cones - called ziibaaska'iganan - attached to their dresses which make a distinctive sound as they dance. The Jingle Dress dance has a rich history, and there are few sights as mesmerizing as watching and hearing the women dance in their Jingle Dresses.

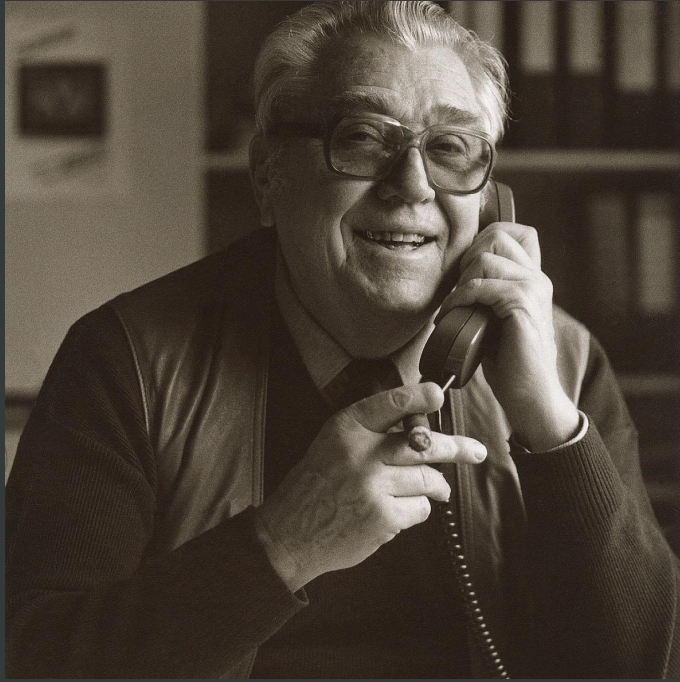


[Click on the cover to hear a read aloud of *Jingle Dancer* by Cynthia Leitich Smith](#)

U.S. Government Influenced by Iroquois Confederacy

- The Iroquois Confederacy, was a union of six Indian nations in the northeast of what is now the United States.
- Historians consider the Iroquois Confederacy one of the oldest democracies in the world
 - Each nation was independent, but also an equal member of the alliance.
 - Fifty sachems or chiefs, chosen by elder women of the tribes, met in a Great Council to discuss matters of warfare, religion and trade.
 - Council decisions passed with a unanimous vote from all fifty chiefs.
- Considerable evidence supports the idea that the democratic ideals of this political alliance influenced the framers of the U.S. Constitution

Notable Native American Leaders



Scott Momaday

First person of Native American heritage to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.



John Herrington

First person of Native American heritage to fly in space.



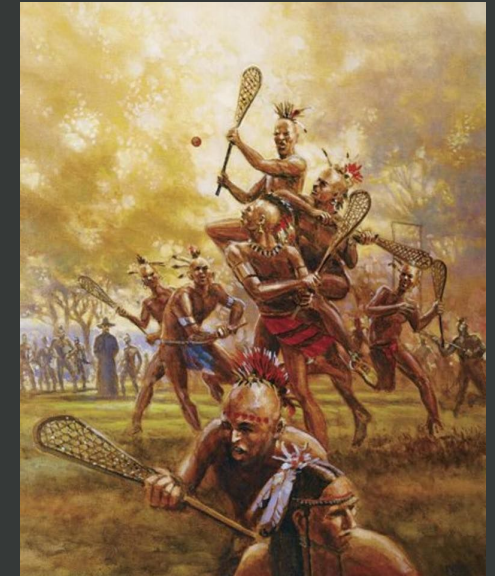
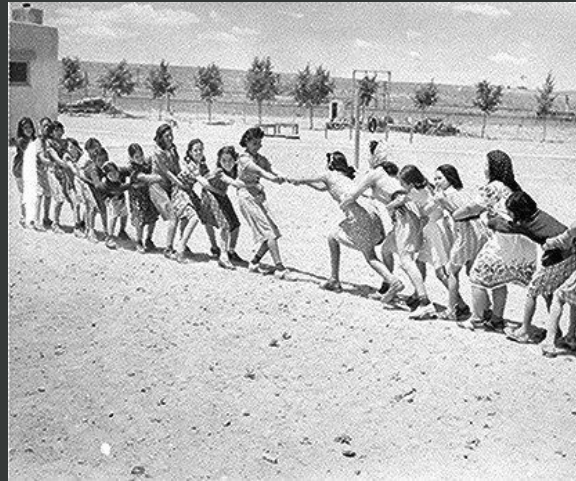
Wilma Pearl Mankiller

First woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation where she served three full terms.

Sports and Games

DID YOU KNOW THAT MANY OF THE GAMES YOU PLAY TODAY CAME FROM NATIVE AMERICANS?

- Canoeing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, lacrosse, relay races, tug-of-wars, and ball games are just a few of the games early Native Americans played and still enjoy today



Listen to Native American Music

- Discover the various Native American Instruments - 6 instructional video
- FCUSD Music Department - “Neesa” Native American Song Video - 7 minute instructional video
- Native American Music highlighting the Canyon Flute - 9 hour instrumental video
- Native American Powwow Drum Circle - 1 minute video
- Native American Drum Beat Song - 4 minute video
- Native American Water Song - 4 minute video

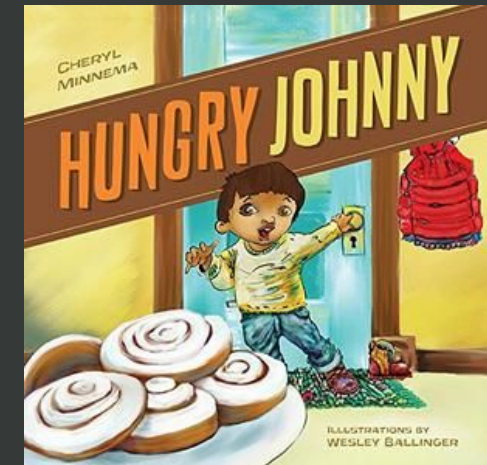
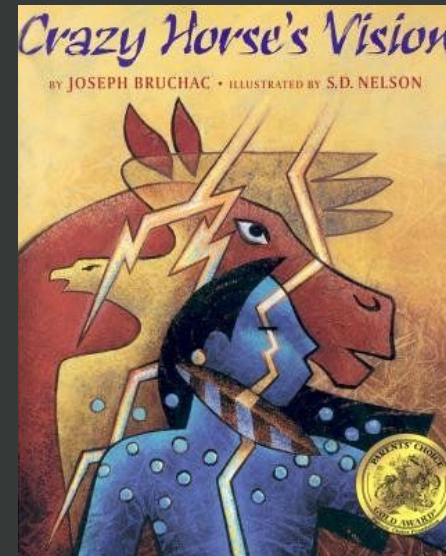
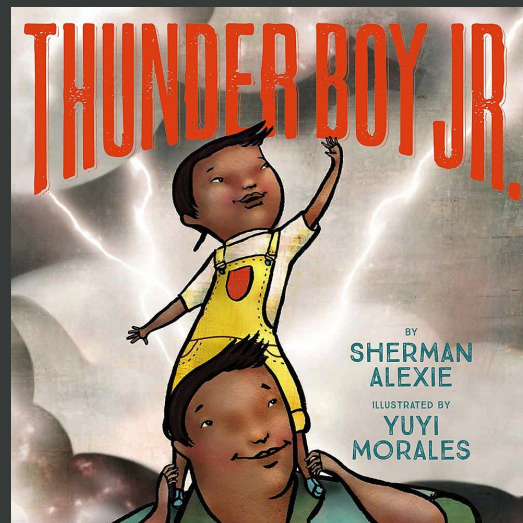
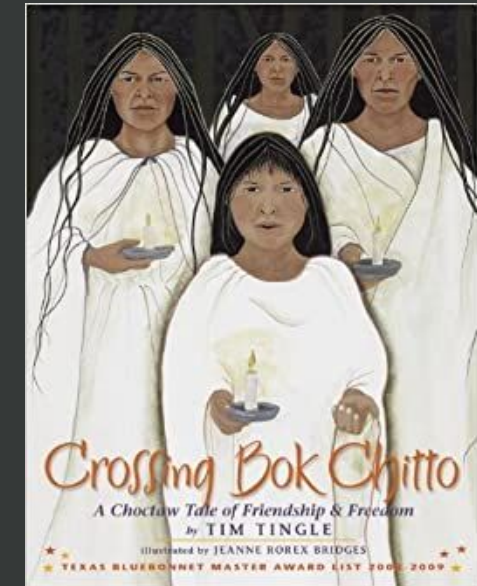
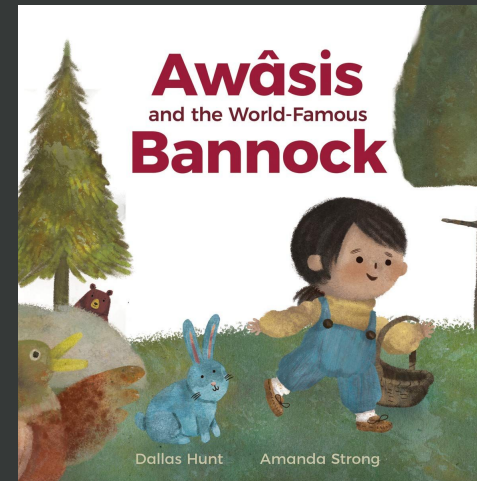
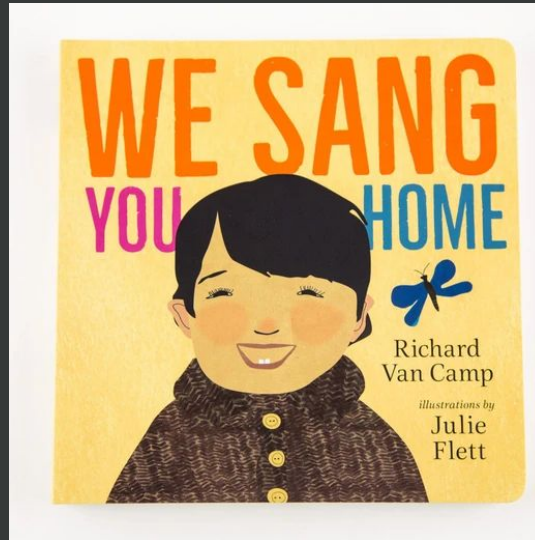
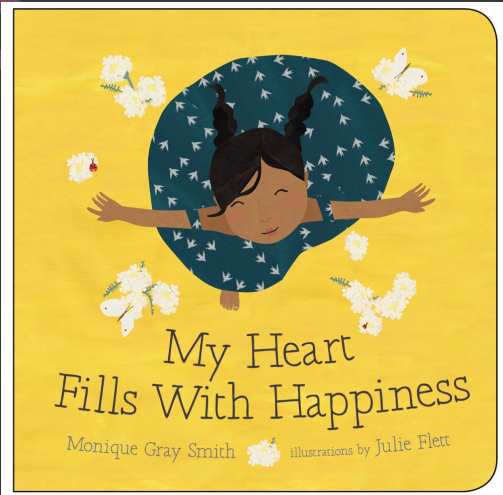




Resources and Lessons

Native Stories

Click covers to see Youtube read alouds



Game: Birch Bark Ball and Triangle

Supplies Needed:

- Cardboard
- String
- Paper or clay



A traditional game played by Penobscot children was the Wiigwaas game, played with a stiff piece of birchbark cut into a triangular shape with a hole in the center and a string attached with a small ball.

Birch Bark Ball and Triangle

Instructions

1. Children fashioned the toy from a triangle-shaped piece of bark from a birch tree
2. Cut the cardboard into triangle shapes approximately 6 inches long on each side
3. Cut a hole in the center of the cardboard; the hole should be about the size of a silver dollar
4. Poke a small hole in one corner of the triangle and tie an 18-inch-long piece of string through the hole
5. Create small ball from clay/paper (about the size of a medium-size gumball)
6. Wrap the other end of the string around the ball -- tightly, but not too tightly -- and knot. Let the clay ball harden (is using)
7. Hold the triangle and try to swing the ball upward so that it drops through the hole in the triangle.
8. Every time you get one in, you get a bean, the students with the most beans at the end of the game are the winners.

More Resources

- [Teacher's Guide-American Indian History and Heritage](#)
- [Indigenous People's Day Curriculum Teach-In](#)
- [National Congress of American Indians](#)
- [Native American Contributions](#)
- [Honoring Tribal Legacies](#)
- [Docs Teach-American Indians](#)
- [Native American History](#)
- [National Museum of the American Indian Children's Books](#)
- [NMAI Virtual Field Trips](#)
- [NMAI Educational Resources](#)



**Did you try and any lessons in your
classroom?**

**Click here to submit student work
to be showcased.**

