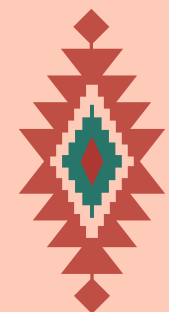


Indigenous Updates- November

National Native American Heritage Month



APS-Indian Education Department would like to share with you our monthly messaging flier in building connections and relationships with our Native American students, families, and communities. Taking this time to celebrate and empower your Indigenous students will create harmonious and supportive schools.



Native American Heritage Month, Thanksgiving and the National Day of Mourning: A History

Since 1970, Indigenous people and their allies have convened at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to observe a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers, viewing Thanksgiving as a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the appropriation of Native lands, and the erasure of Indigenous cultures. Participants in the National Day of Mourning pay tribute to their ancestors and honor Native resilience. This day serves as both a time for remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the ongoing racism and oppression faced by Indigenous peoples around the world.

National Native American Heritage Month has its origins in 1986. President Reagan issued the Presidential Proclamation in November proclaiming the first American Indian Week. The proclamation recognized Native Americans as the first inhabitants of the lands that now constitute the United States as well as making mention of their contributions to American society:

Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and remedies we use were introduced by the Native Americans and more than one highway follows an Indian Trail. Native Americans make contributions in every area of endeavor and American life, and our literature and all our arts draw upon certain themes and wisdom. Countless Native Americans have served in our Armed Forces and have fought valiantly for our country.

In 1990, Congress passed Pub. L. No. 101-343, which authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the month of November, 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month."

Between 1995 and 2008, Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush issued annual proclamations designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month. Since 2009, U.S. Presidents have issued proclamations designating November as National Native American Heritage Month. These proclamations celebrate the contributions of Native Americans and urge the people to learn more about the Native American cultures.

Let's Get Social with the Indian Education Department-

Check out our Social Media pages for updates on events, resources and more.
Follow us on Instagram, Facebook + watch videos on our Youtube Channel.



Get Involved:

- Indigenous Traditional Foods Workshops:
 - Pueblo Indian Style Red Chile Tamales, Seed Saving, Stories from Knowledge Keepers, Los Padillas Elementary School, November 15, 10-12pm
- Los Padillas Wildlife Sanctuary Community Workday, Saturday, Nov 8, 9am- 3pm
- 2025 APS Native Leadership PowWow, AHS Commons, Nov 13, 4- 10pm
- La Cosecha Dual Language Conference, Nov 11 - 15
- Rock your Mocs, Governor Bent Elementary School, Friday, November 14, 8:30 - 11:15am
- KCLC-IMI 9th Annual Native Language Symposium, Berna Facio, Nov 17 - 18, 8am- 4pm
- Winter Stories Event & Community Feed, Rio Grande High School, Dec 16 5- 7pm
- Albuquerque High School Native American Winter Stories Celebration, AHS, Dec 2, 6pm
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Native Student Art show, Nov 22
- Saad K'idilye' Winter Solstice Gala, Dec 12, Save the Date
- 5th Annual Indian Ed. Curriculum Fair, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, November 8, 8 - 4pm
- 2025 APS Leadership Pow Wow, AHS Commons, November 13, 4 - 10 pm
- Native American Indian Science & Engineering Fair 2026



Rock Your Mocs Activity Ideas

Rock Your Mocs Lesson Plan

Rock YOUR Mocs!

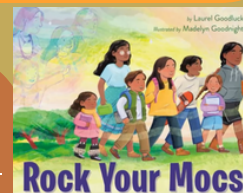
Rock Your Mocs #RockYourMocs is a social media movement and community celebration that encourages people to:
Wear moccasins (traditional Native footwear) or other cultural footwear,
Share photos and stories online, and
Celebrate Indigenous identity, heritage, and resilience.

It's become a global event that brings visibility to Native cultures and unity among Indigenous nations around the world.



Origin Story
Created by: Jessica "Jaylyn" Atsye, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe in New Mexico.
Year: 2011
Why: Jaylyn started the movement as a simple way for Indigenous people to stand together by wearing moccasins on the same day — showing pride in their culture, heritage, and traditions.
Growth: What began as a one-day event (November 15) quickly spread across social media, evolving into a week-long celebration each November, often coinciding with National Native American Heritage Month in the U.S.

Rock Your Mocs Read Aloud



Ways to Celebrate Rock Your Mocs

There are many ways to join in — whether you're Native or an ally:

1. Wear Your Mocs

Wear your moccasins proudly to school, work, or around your community. If you don't own moccasins, wear turquoise or a cultural item that shows support and respect.

2. Share on Social Media

Post photos or videos with hashtags like #RockYourMocs or #RockYourMocs2025. Share the story behind your moccasins or what they represent to your family or tribe.

3. Host or Attend Local Events

Many communities, schools, museums, and tribal organizations host Rock Your Mocs walks, powwows, or educational events.

Participate in storytelling, craft-making, or moccasin workshops.

4. Educate and Reflect

Learn about the different moccasin styles across tribes — each has unique materials, beadwork, and symbolism.

Use the day/week to teach others about Indigenous histories, sovereignty, and living cultures.

5. Support Indigenous Artists

Buy moccasins or beadwork from Indigenous makers.
Promote Native-owned businesses and artisans.

Learn with us:

Resources



- [Native Now: Dos & Don'ts - Guide to conversations in your classroom](#)
- [Native Knowledge 360](#)
- [Native American Heritage Month Teacher Resources](#)
- [Giving Thanks: A Reading Rainbow Classroom Guide](#)
- [Harvest Ceremony Beyond the Thanksgiving Myth](#)
- [The Wampanoag and the English: A Thanksgiving Lesson Plan Booklet](#)
- [NIEA Grades Pk-2 Lessons](#)
- [NIEA Grades 3 - 5 Student-Centered Learning](#)
- [NIEA Grades 6 - 12 Lessons](#)
- [Native Ways of Knowledge Books](#)
- [Native Educator's on Respectful & Fun Thanksgiving](#)
- [The "First Thanksgiving" How Can We Tell a Better Story?](#)
- [Challenging How History is Written](#)
- [Indigineity Curriculum](#)
- [Tips for Teachers: Developing Instructional Materials about American Indians](#)
- [Native American Resources NM](#)
- [Encyclopedic Resources for Projects on American Indians](#)
- [Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask - Micro Asynch Course](#)
- [NDN Girls Book Club](#)

Native American HERITAGE MONTH

This month focus on a culturally relevant topic.

- Honor Native Veterans
- Attend or host an event with a Native speaker
- [Visit a local museum like Indian Pueblo Cultural Center](#)
- Try an Indigenous recipe
- Include work by Native authors and scholars in your curriculum
- Watch a film both centering Native characters but also written and directed by Native artists.
- Learn and spread awareness to Indigenous issues like #landback, #MMIWG2, & #Everychildmatters
- Encourage participation in Rock your Macs week
- Learn about the National Day of Mourning
- Research Tribes in your area and abroad
- Focus on the Harvest season and teach the role of the Three Sisters - corn, beans and squash
- Instead of Black Friday at a Big Box store consider buying from a local Native Business or donating to a Native fundraiser or organization.

Culturally Responsive Resources

Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

When in doubt check out: American Indians in
Children's Literature by Debbie Reese

Native Education for All

Supporting Indigenous students and teaching non-Indigenous students during National Native American Heritage Month can be impactful and meaningful. Here are some actionable ways teachers can engage in this effort:

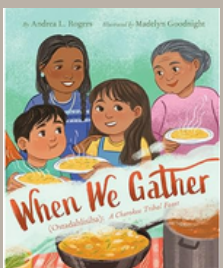
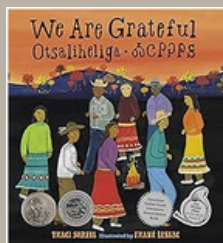
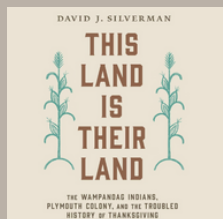
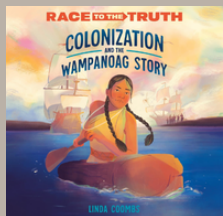
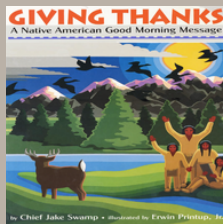
For Supporting Indigenous Students:

- **Create Safe Spaces:** Establish classrooms that respect and celebrate Indigenous cultures. Encourage open dialogue about identities and experiences.
- **Integrate Indigenous Voices:** Include literature and resources written by Indigenous authors or created by Indigenous artists. This representation helps Indigenous students see themselves in the curriculum.
- **Celebrate Indigenous Cultures:** Organize events or activities that highlight Indigenous traditions, such as storytelling sessions, art workshops, or music performances.
- **Involve Community Members:** Invite local Indigenous leaders or elders to speak with students, share their knowledge, and provide mentorship.
- **Offer Support Services:** Ensure that Indigenous students have access to counseling and support services that understand and respect their cultural backgrounds.

For Teaching Non-Indigenous Students:

- **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporate Indigenous history and perspectives across subjects, such as social studies, science, and art. Focus on the contributions of Indigenous peoples to various fields.
- **Interactive Learning:** Engage students in projects that explore Indigenous cultures, such as research presentations or creative arts projects that reflect Indigenous themes.
- **Encourage Critical Thinking:** Discuss historical and contemporary issues facing Indigenous communities. Encourage students to think critically about stereotypes and representation.
- **Promote Respectful Engagement:** Teach students about the importance of respectful language and interactions when discussing Indigenous cultures and issues.
- **Utilize Diverse Resources:** Use documentaries, podcasts, and digital content that present Indigenous perspectives. This helps to broaden understanding and foster empathy.

By implementing these strategies, teachers can create an inclusive environment that honors Indigenous heritage while educating all students about its significance.



Indigenize your library.

- [THIS LAND IS THEIR LAND](#)
- [CRANBERRY DAY BOOK: A WAMPANOAG HARVEST CELEBRATION BOOK](#)
- [COLONIZATION AND THE WAMPANOAG](#)
- [WE ARE GREATFUL OTSALIHELIGA](#)
- [GIVING THANKS: A NATIVE AMERICAN GOOD MORNING MESSAGE](#)
- [TAPENUM'S DAY: A WAMPANOAG INDIAN BOY IN PILGRIM TIMES](#)
- [SQUANTO'S JOURNEY: THE STORY OF THE FIRST THANKSGIVING](#)
- [WHEN WE GATHER \(OSTADAH LISIHA\): A CHEROKEE TRIBAL FEAST](#)
- [WE ARE STILL HERE!: NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTHS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW](#)
- [KEEPUNUMUK: WEEACHUMUN'S THANKSGIVING STORY](#)
- [THE PUEBLO FOOD EXPERIENCE](#)
- [THE HEARTBEAT OF WOUNDED KNEE: NATIVE AMERICA FROM 1890 TO THE PRESENT](#)
- [SACRED LAND, SACRED VIEW: NAVAJO PERCEPTIONS OF THE FOUR CORNERS REGION](#)
- [STITCHES OF TRADITION \(GASHKIGWAASO TRADITION\)](#)
- [FIREKEEPER'S DAUGHTER](#)
- [FRY BREAD: A NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILY STORY](#)
- [INDIAN NO MORE](#)
- [TEACHING WHERE YOU ARE: WEAVING INDIGENOUS AND SLOW PRINCIPLES AND PEDAGOGIES](#)
- [HIAWATHA AND THE PEACEMAKER](#)
- [KAPAEMAHU](#)
- [AT THE MOUNTAIN'S BASE](#)
- [THE PEOPLE SHALL CONTINUE](#)
- [SHARICE'S BIG VOICE: A NATIVE KID BECOMES A CONGRESSWOMAN](#)
- [THE REDISCOVERY OF AMERICA: NATIVE PEOPLES AND THE UNMAKING OF U.S. HISTORY](#)
- [AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE](#)
- [DECOLONIZING METHODOLOGIES: RESEARCH AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES](#)
- [RECLAIMING YOUTH AT RISK \(NATIVE VALUES/ CIRCLE OF COURAGE\)](#)

