



LOW HANGING FRUIT



November, 2023

LINKS TO MORE
LEARNING



National Museum of the American Indian

Visit online exhibits from the Smithsonian featuring First Nations from all over the American continents.

<https://americanindian.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/online>.

National Education Association

Find loads of lesson plans, activity ideas, and other resources about Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

<https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/tools-tips/native-american-and-alaska-native-heritage-month>

PRACTICAL
APPLICATIONS



Use it in the classroom!

See the [Wetxuwiiin' Collection](#) at the Nez Perce National Park and learn some Nimiipuu (the Nez Perce Language) online. See the exhibits in person in the park facility near Lapwai on US Hwy 95.

DIGITAL TOOLS



WORLD BOOK
ONLINE

Use one or more databases in the [World Book Suite](#) to explore articles, curriculum standards, images, and more for a myriad of topics. Each database offers a comprehensive article on Indigenous peoples of the Americas with links to related information.



Native American Heritage Month

by Kristina Taylor

November is Native American Heritage Month. While it is important to focus on Indigenous heritage this time of year, perhaps it's more like a jumping off place for exploration of the rich and diverse histories and cultures of our American Continents' First Nations.

Indigenous heritage is a vast and diverse topic, and older resources are littered with inaccuracies and stereotypes. Remedy that by:

- providing and reading newer books written and illustrated by Indigenous authors, some from present-day Idaho (ask your school librarian for suggestions or help researching great titles);
- visiting carefully curated museum exhibits - there are some really wonderful exhibits in Idaho museums, like the excellent installation at the the Nez Perce National Historic Park;
- incorporating updated lessons into your classrooms and discussions with students; and
- learning about present-day Indigenous people from today's Indigenous Idaho teens like:
 - [Teagan Larkin, Miss Sho-Ban High School Queen](#) who works to raise awareness about the now defunct boarding school near Ft. Hall; and
 - the students featured on [Native Voices #1](#) and [Native Voices #2](#).

Unsure about where to start? Explore newly published books at [Heartdrum](#), an imprint of HarperCollins and use their handy [educator guides](#), and check out the [American Indians in Children's Literature](#) blog. Grown-ups who would like to learn more about Idaho's tribes should check out [United Voices: Awakening Cultural Understanding of Idaho's Five Tribes](#).

Spend a few minutes this November looking through your classroom library. Are there titles there about Thanksgiving or Native Americans? Ask your school librarian to help you find reviews and then read the book. With luck the portrayals are accurate and respectful. If not, weed those titles and replace them with something good.