NOVEMBER IS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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ELEMENTARY LEVEL

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Use these materials to explore the histories, cultures, knowledge, and contemporary experiences of Native peoples, with an emphasis on California Native communities.

GUIDING QUESTION

How do the histories, cultures, knowledge, and experiences of Native peoples help us understand California, past and present?



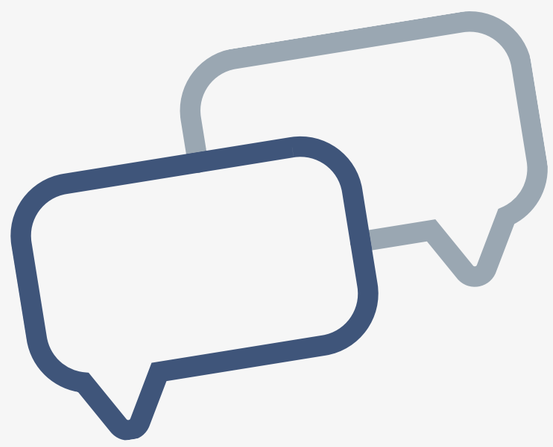
EXPLORE



- Watch **“We Are Still Here”** from the California Native American Studies Model Curriculum: https://vimeo.com/1049827403
- Choose a resource for your grade level from the **Model Curriculum** to read, watch or explore: https://camodelcurricula.ucdavis.edu/native-american-studies
- Explore the California Indian Museum & Cultural Center: https://cimcc.org/
- Listen to **Native musicians** perform for Tiny Desk Concerts Playlist for NPR Music https://www.npr.org/2021/11/12/1053543653/tiny-desk-playlist-celebrating-native-american-heritage-month
- Read or listen to **Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story** and learn how food, family, and tradition help connect Native communities across generations. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6qE1FdpBho)
- Explore **Native Peoples of the East Bay:** Learn about the Native peoples of our region and their enduring relationships to land, culture, and community (Grades 3-5): https://www.ebparks.org/sites/default/files/Native_Peoples_Map_Brochure_2020.pdf

EXPLAIN

- What did you learn about the histories, cultures, knowledge, or experiences of Native peoples that was new to you?
- What questions do you still have? Where could you look for answers from Native voices and reliable sources? *(Social Justice Standard D.I.3-5.8)*



ENGAGE FURTHER

- Explore the art of DY Begay: Discover the work of **Diné weaver DY Begay** through the Smithsonian's Painting with Yarn resources. https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/resources/DY-Begay
- Explore **award-winning Native literature** selected by the American Indian Library Association. Choose from picture books and middle grade titles: https://ailanet.org/2026-american-indian-youth-literature-awards/

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SECONDARY LEVEL

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Use these materials to explore the histories, cultures, sovereignty, and contemporary experiences of Native peoples, with an emphasis on California Native communities.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How have Native peoples shaped California, and how do sovereignty, culture, and self-determination continue to shape the state today?



EXPLORE

- Watch **“We Are Still Here”** from the California Native American Studies Model Curriculum: https://vimeo.com/1049827403
- **Explore tribal sovereignty and self-determination**: Investigate how Tribal Nations exercise sovereignty and maintain government-to-government relationships. Choose a resource for your grade level from the Model Curriculum to read, watch or explore: https://camodelcurricula.ucdavis.edu/native-american-studies
- Explore the **Digital Atlas of California Native Americans** to begin investigating California Native history and connections to place. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/88d47f08dc124f80a425534bbb761b72/
- Investigate **Native histories and contemporary experiences** through Smithsonian Native Knowledge 360°. https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/
- Examine the history of Indian boarding schools: **Explore student stories** and historical sources to understand how boarding schools affected Native languages, cultures, families, and communities: https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/code-talkers/boarding-schools/
- Explore language revitalization: Learn how **the Yurok Tribe is strengthening its language and culture** through education and opportunities for young people: https://publications.csba.org/california-school-news/november-2022/californias-yurok-tribe-is-revitalizing-language-in-and-out-of-the-classroom/



EXPLAIN

- What have you learned about the ways Native peoples have shaped California, past and present?
- How does learning about sovereignty, culture, and self-determination expand or challenge your understanding of California history? *(Social Justice Standard D.I. 9-12.8)*



ENGAGE FURTHER

- Explore award-winning Native literature selected by the **American Indian Library Association.** Choose from middle-grade and young adult titles: https://ailanet.org/2026-american-indian-youth-literature-awards/
- **For Educators:** California Indian Education for All: professional learning and classroom resources: https://www.caindianeducationforall.com/

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