

Native American Heritage Month



CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

November is National Native American Heritage Month. Celebrate the rich cultural traditions, histories, and contributions of Indigenous peoples in North America. Complete activities and read books written by Indigenous authors. Log your reading and activities throughout the month to earn badges.

CHALLENGE STRUCTURE

- 1 Registration Badge**
- 1 Completion Badge**
- 10 Logging Badges (Minutes)**
- 5 Activity Badges**

ACTIVITY BADGES

Activity Badge Title:

Storytelling and Oral Traditions

Badge Description

Storytelling plays an essential role in the traditions and education systems of Indigenous communities. Oral traditions, or sharing information by speaking or singing, help pass along history, language, and spiritual beliefs throughout generations.

Activities

- Storytelling can be a powerful way to strengthen communities and bond families. Why do you think this is? **text box**
- Learn more about the importance of oral tradition in Indigenous communities by reading the article below.
 - [Celebrating Native Cultures Through Words: Storytelling and Oral Traditions](#)
- Explore this comic series depicting stories of past and present Native New Yorkers from an exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.
 - [Telling Stories with Pictures](#)

Activity Badge Title:

Land Acknowledgements

Badge Description

Throughout history, white settlers forced Native communities to leave their homelands. Land acknowledgements are one way to recognize and honor the original Indigenous inhabitants of the land where we live. They can be written or spoken and include naming the Indigenous communities to whom the land belongs along with the history of the land.

Activities

- Learn more about the importance of land acknowledgements by reading the article below.
 - [Honoring Original Indigenous Inhabitants: Land Acknowledgement](#)
- Use this virtual map resource to learn more about the Indigenous communities and histories where you live. What did you learn? **text box**
 - [Native Land Digital](#)

Activity Badge Title:

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Badge Description

Though many people celebrated Christopher Columbus as the explorer who discovered America in 1492, Indigenous peoples inhabited the land long before he arrived. In fact, the arrival of European colonists devastated Native communities. We can celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on the second Monday in October to honor the diverse cultures and history of Native American communities.

Activities

- Learning more about history can often shape the way we move forward. Why do you think it's important sometimes to reexamine what you've already learned? **text box**
- Read more about the harmful myths behind Columbus Day in the article below.
 - [Unlearning Columbus Day Myths: Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

Activity Badge Title:

Visit the Museum

Activities

- There is a Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and New York City, but did you know that you can visit the museum from home? Check out the link below for virtual student resources. What is one new thing you learned?
text box
 - [Native Knowledge 360 Education Initiative](#)

Activity Badge Title:

Book Recommendations

Activities

- Read a book written by an Indigenous author. Ask your librarian or teacher for recommendations!

Ages 0-4

1. "We Are Water Protectors" written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade
2. "Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story" written by Kevin Noble Maillard and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

3. "Look, Grandma! Ni, Elisi!" written by Art Coulson and illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight
4. "Berry Song" by Michaela Goade

Ages 5-10

1. "Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids" by Cynthia Leitich Smith
2. "Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friends" written by Dawn Quigley and illustrated by Tara Audibert
3. "Shaped by Her Hands: Potter Maria Martinez" written by Anna Harber Freeman and Barbara Gonzales and illustrated by Aphelandra
4. "Rez Dogs" by Joseph Bruchac

Ages 11-13

1. "Elatsoe" written by Darcie Little Badger and illustrated by Rovina Cai
2. "Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians But Were Afraid to Ask: Young Readers Edition" by Anton Treuer
3. "Healer of the Water Monster" by Brian Young
4. "I Can Make This Promise" by Christine Day

Ages 14-18

1. "Firekeeper's Daughter" by Angeline Boulley
2. "A Snake Falls to Earth" by Darcie Little Badger
3. "Hunting by Stars" by Cherie Dimaline
4. "Come Home, Indio" by Jim Terry

Ages 18+

1. "Calling for a Blanket Dance" by Oscar Hokeah
2. "Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land" by Toni Jensen
3. "Poet Warrior: A Memoir" by Joy Harjo
4. "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson