

Resources for Educators and Students

The following books, videos, curriculum guides, and Web sites explore various eras and events in U.S. history from an American Indian perspective, address bias and prejudice against Native Americans, and provide general information about Native American history and culture.

Elementary School Level Resources

***1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving* by Margaret M. Bruchac and Catherine O'Neill Grace**

This pictorial presentation of the reenactment of the first Thanksgiving, counters the traditional story of the first Thanksgiving with a more measured, balanced, and historically accurate version of the three-day harvest celebration in 1621. Five chapters give background on the Wampanoag people, colonization, Indian diplomacy, the harvest of 1621, and the evolution of the Thanksgiving story. (2001, 48 pages, National Geographic Society, grades 3–5)

***Encounter* by Jane Yolen**

Told from a young Taino boy's point of view as Christopher Columbus lands on San Salvador in 1492, this is a story of how the boy tried to warn his people against welcoming the strangers, who seem more interested in golden ornaments than friendship. Years later the boy, now an old man, looks back at the destruction of his people and their culture by the colonizers. (1992, 40 pages (picture book), Harcourt Children's Books, grades 2 and up)

***Guests* by Michael Dorris**

Set in Massachusetts during the time of the first Thanksgiving, a young Algonquin boy, Moss, is alarmed when the annual harvest feast is threatened by the arrival of strange new people, and struggles with a world in which he is caught between the values of children and adults. (1994, 128 pages, Hyperion Books for Children, grades 3–6)

***Home to Medicine Mountain* by Chiori Santiago and Judith Lowry (Illustrator)**

This is the story of two brothers who are separated from their family and sent to live in a government-run Indian residential school in the 1930s. Native artist Judith Lowry based this personal account on the stories her father and Uncle told her. Inspired by their dreams of home, the boys run away one summer and embark on an adventurous journey by train from the harsh residential school to their triumphant welcome home in Susanville, California. (2002, 32 pages, Children's Book Press, grades 2–5)

***Morning Girl* by Michael Dorris**

Tells the story of twelve-year-old Morning Girl and her brother, Star Boy, two Native Americans of the Taino tribe, their family, and their community, as they grow up together in the Bahamas in the fateful year of 1492. In Morning Girl's last narrative, she witnesses the arrival of the first Europeans to her world. (1992, 80 pages, Hyperion Books for Children, grades 3–6)

***The People Shall Continue* by Simon Ortiz**

This classic narrative extends in time from the creation of the world to the present day; it touches on all aspects of life; it speaks in the rhythms of traditional oral narrative. The words of the tribal storyteller transmit the spirit of the people as well as vital historical information. In the last part of the story, the concept of the People is enlarged to include all peoples now living on this land who have been victims of inhumanity. (1994, 32 pages, Children's Book Press, grades 2–6)

***Story of Sacagawea: Guide to Lewis and Clark* by Della Rowland**

This non-romanticized biography provides ethnographic information, such as the lifeways of farmers and hunters, as well as historical background on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Includes black-and-white drawings and a map showing the route of the expedition. (1989, 91 pages, Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers, grades 3–6)

***This Land Is My Land* by George Littlechild**

In his own words and paintings, Native American artist George Littlechild takes young readers back in time to the first meeting between his Plains Cree ancestors and the first European settlers in North America. Through autobiographical stories accompanied by multimedia art work, he recounts the history of his people and their relationship to the land. (1993, 30 pages, Children's Book Press, grades 2–6)

Middle School Level Resources

***The Arrow Over the Door* by Joseph Bruchac**

Fourteen-year-old Samuel Russell hates being called a coward because he is a Quaker, and he vows to defend his family if Loyalists or Indians try to harm them. Stands Straight, an Abenaki boy whose mother and brother were murdered by white men, has joined his uncle's scouting party, though he questions why Indians should fight in the white man's war. In alternating narratives, the two boys tell this quietly compelling story, which is based on an actual incident that took place in 1777, just before the Battle of Saratoga. (1998, 96 pages, Puffin Books, grades 4–7)

***The Heart of a Chief* by Joseph Bruchac**

In this novel Bruchac explores three contemporary issues in Native American culture: alcoholism, casino gambling, and the racist names of sports teams. Chris, an 11-year-old Penacook Indian, is trying to hold on to his people's traditions in very unsteady times. At school he speaks out against the name of the sports team, the Chiefs; at home he reaches out to his father in rehab; and on the reservation he fights against bringing in a casino to alleviate widespread poverty. (1998, 153 pages, Puffin Books, grades 5–8)

***"Mush-hole": Memories of a Residential School* by Maddie Harper**

Maddie Harper tells of experiences in an Indian residential school, and her escape and recovery from the negative values and cultural degradation she was forced to live with. (1994, 90 pages, Sister Vision Press, grades 5–7)

***Navajo Long Walk: The Tragic Story of a Proud People's Forced March from their Homeland* by Joseph Bruchac and Shonto Begay**

Tells the tragic story of how, in the 1860s, U.S. soldiers forced thousands of Navajos to march to a desolate reservation 400 miles from their homeland in an effort to "civilize" them. (2001, 64 pages, National Geographic Society, grades 4–7)

***Sacagawea: Indian Interpreter to Lewis and Clark* by Marion Marsh Brown**

Relates the story of the young Shoshoni Indian woman who acted as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition. The authors used the journals kept by Lewis and Clark and other members of the expedition as source material, so the accounts are accurate and free from lore and romanticizing. All illustrations and maps are from original sources. (1988, 119 pages, Scholastic Library Publishing, grades 6–9)

***Sacagawea: Westward with Lewis and Clark (Native American Biographies)* by Alana J. White**

The author states that this is Sacagawea's "true story," retelling the few facts that exist about her life and focusing on her journey, from 1805-1806, to the Pacific Coast with Lewis and Clark. Includes black and white photographs, historic paintings and maps. (1997, 128 pages, Enslow Publishers, grades 4–8)

***Sacagawea's Son: The Life of Jean Baptiste Charbonneau (Lewis & Clark Expedition)* by Marion Tintling**

The author researched the writings of Lewis, Clark, and others to document the life of Sacagawea's son, who was an infant when he accompanied his parents on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Later educated in St. Louis by Captain Clark, Baptiste went on to live in a royal palace in Europe and to speak many languages, to become a mountain man and scout, a soldier in America's war with Mexico, and a prospector during the gold rush. (2001, 125 pages, Mountain Press Publishing Company, grades 7–9)

***York's Adventures with Lewis and Clark: An African-American's Part in the Great Expedition* by Rhoda Blumberg**

This book, which relates the adventures of York—a slave and "body servant" to William Clark—provides a novel angle on both Western U.S. exploration and slavery. The book chronicles the contributions York made to the Lewis and Clark expedition before returning from the journey only to realize, once again, that he was totally a slave, considered to be inferior to every white person. Includes maps, sketches, portraits, and other archival materials. (2003, 96 pages, HarperCollins Publishers, grades 5–8)

High School Level Resources

***Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage* by William Loren Katz**

Through careful research and rare antique prints and photographs, this book traces the existence of black Indians from the earliest foreign landings through pioneer days. It also explores the history of relations between blacks and American Indians, and the ways in which both groups worked together to oppose white oppression. (1996, 198 pages, Simon & Schuster Children's Publishers, grades 6 and up)

***Mean Spirit* by Linda Hogan**

Nora Blanket, an Osage Indian, witnesses her mother's murder, the first of many as white men try to steal the Indians oil-rich land and personal fortunes in 1920s Oklahoma. The Osage try to protect themselves and their way of life, but the situation becomes hopeless. Readers learn about Indian values and experience the injustice inherent in cultural prejudice and government corruption. (1991, 384 pages, Ivy Books; grades 9 and up)

***Points of View vs. Historical Bias: Recognizing Bias in Texts about Native Americans* by Sarah Supahan**

This guide looks at the difference between a point of view and a bias, then looks at passages from real history books about Indian people and how the use of certain "loaded" words affects the meaning of the text in a way that shows bias. (1999, 17 pages, Oyate, grades 6–12)

***Sacagawea: The Story of Bird Woman and the Lewis and Clark Expedition* by Joseph Bruchac**

The author—a Native American storyteller, poet, and writer—frames this novel as a story told to Sacagawea's son, which alternates between the voices of Sacagawea and William Clark, and is infused with Native American folklore excerpts. The author adheres closely to journals kept by members of the expedition and remains true to actual events. (2001, 208 pages; Scholastic Signature; grades 6 and up)

***Streams to the River, River to the Sea: A Novel of Sacagawea* by Scott O'Dell, Peter Roop, Blair**

In this highly fictionalized account of Sacagawea's journey with Lewis and Clark, she falls in love with Clark. The author's introduction explains the historical and political background to the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the sources he used for the story. (1986, 163 pages, The Random House Publishing Group, grades 6 and up)

***Thanksgiving: A Native Perspective* by Doris Seale, Beverly Slapin and Carolyn Silverman**

This sourcebook of essays, speeches, poetry, stories and activities helps teachers and students think critically about the history of Thanksgiving and what it means to Native Americans. (1998, 101 pages, Oyate)

***Who Will Tell My Brother?* by Marlene Carvell**

During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world. (2002, 150 pages, Hyperion Books for Children, grades 7–11)

Educator/Adult Resources***A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald Takaki**

Beginning with the colonization of the "New World" and ending with the Los Angeles riots of 1992, this book recounts U.S. history in the voices of Native Americans, African Americans, Jews, Irish Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos and others. Takaki turns the Anglocentric historical viewpoint inside out and examines the ultimate question of what it means to be an American. (1993, 508 pages, Little, Brown & Company, adult)

***How to Tell the Difference: A Guide for Evaluating Children's Books for Anti-Indian Bias* by Beverly Slapin, Doris Seale and Rosemary Gonzales**

Reproduced from *Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children*, the goal of this book is to make it easier for parents, students, teachers or librarians to choose undistorted books about the lives and histories of indigenous peoples. 1996, 30 pages, Oyate, adult

***Lessons from Turtle Island: Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms* by Guy W. Jones and Sally Moomaw**

The authors—one Native, one white—explore Native American issues in preschool and early primary education, and offer guidelines for learning experiences that move children beyond embedded stereotypes. (2002, 175 pages, Redleaf Press, educators)

***Native American FAQs Handbook* by George Russell**

The author—a member of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe—provides demographic information about today's Native Americans, including population statistics, data about federally recognized tribes and reservations, and information about free reports and catalogs that serve as further resources for American Indian information. (2000, Russell Publications, adult)

***A People's History of the United States: 1492–Present* by Howard Zinn**

This reader tells America's story from the point of view of—and in the words of—America's women, factory workers, African Americans, Native Americans, working poor, and immigrant laborers. Revised and updated with two new chapters covering Clinton's presidency, the 2000 Election, and the war on terrorism. (2003, 752 pages, HarperCollins Publishers, adult)

A People's History of The United States: The Wall Charts by Howard Zinn

This accompaniment to the book includes two 3' x 5' full color posters and an explanatory booklet with primary-source quotations and photos that highlight the progress of native, ethnic, and African Americans; working people; and women. Poster one covers the period from 1492 to 1900, and Poster Two covers 1900–1990. (1994, 49 pages, *The New Press*)

Thanksgiving: A Native Perspective by Doris Seale, Beverly Slapin, and Carolyn Silverman

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Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children by Beverly Slapin and Doris Seale

Contains Native-authored essays, poetry, and reviews of more than 100 children's books by and about Indians, a guide to evaluating children's books for anti-Indian bias, a recommended bibliography, and a resource section of Native publishers and organizations. (1998, *University of California, American Indian Studies Center, adult*)

Us and Them: A History of Intolerance in America by Jim Carnes and Herbert Tauss

Through fourteen case studies, using original documents, historical photos, paintings, and dramatic narratives, readers delve into the history and psychology of intolerance in the U.S. Each chapter focuses in depth on one individual's experience or on a particular episode of bigotry—the Cherokee people's journey to exile on the Trail of Tears, the nineteenth-century conflict between Protestant nativists and Catholic immigrants in Philadelphia, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, the recent race riots in Crown Heights, the murder of a gay man in Maine, and more. (1996, 136 pages, *Oxford University Press, adult*)

Videos***The Columbus Controversy: Challenging How History is Written, a film directed by Nick Kaufman***

This video examines the Columbus controversy using footage from the classroom of Bill Bigelow, along with historians John Mohawk and William McNeil. Students are challenged to examine how a society selects its heroes and what motivates these choices. The teacher's guide includes review questions, follow-up activities and an annotated bibliography. (1991, 24 minutes, *American School Publishers*)

Columbus Didn't Discover Us, a film by Turning Tides Productions

In July 1990, some 300 Native people participated in the First Continental Conference of Indigenous Peoples in the highlands of Ecuador. This documentary is testimony to the legacy of Columbus on the lives of indigenous peoples of this hemisphere, as they speak about their struggle for *tierra, paz, y libertad*—land, peace, and liberty. (1992, 24 minutes, *Turning Tides Productions, grades 5-up*)

Earth & The American Dream, a film by Bill Couturie

This extraordinary film examines U.S. history from the standpoint of the earth itself. Beginning with Columbus, it effectively blends contrasting quotes from Native Americans and European settlers with images of the environmental consequences of these ideas and attitudes. (1993, 77 minutes, *distributed by Direct Cinema Limited, grades 7 and up*)

Gold, Greed & Genocide: The Untold Tragedy of the California Gold Rush, a film by the International Indian Treaty Council

Told mostly from the perspective of California Indian people whose lives have been and continue to be impacted by the California Gold Rush. The film comes with a 16-page classroom activities and discussion guide designed to encourage critical thinking and research skills. (2003, 24 minutes; *International Indian Treaty Council, grades 6-up*)

Images of Indians: How Hollywood Stereotyped the Native American, a film directed by Chris O'Brien and Jason Witmer

Narrated by Will Sampson (Creek), *Images* critically examines, from a Native perspective, the Hollywood movie industry's depiction and misrepresentation of indigenous histories, lifeways, and languages. (1985, five 30-minute episodes, *available from Oyate, grades 7-up*)

In the Heart of Big Mountain, a film by Upstream Productions

A portrait, through the eyes and words of Navajo matriarch Katherine Smith, of the consequences of forced relocation on one Navajo family. (1995, 28 minutes, *Upstream Productions, grades 5-up*)

In Whose Honor? American Indian Mascots in Sports, a film by Jay Rosenstein

This documentary takes a critical look at the long-running practice of “honoring” American Indians by using them as mascots and nicknames in sports. It follows the story of Charlene Teters (Spokane) and her transformation from a graduate student into a national movement leader. The video examines the issues of race, stereotypes, minority representation and the powerful effects of mass-media imagery, and also shows the extent to which one community will go to defend and justify its mascot. (1997, 46 minutes, produced by Jay Rosenstein, grades 10 and up)

Native Homelands Along the Lewis & Clark Trail, a film by Sally Thompson and Ken Furrow

They were given names like Flatheads, Big Bellies, and Pierced Noses, but they called themselves “The People,” “Upright Persons” and “Ourselves.” Get acquainted with the perspectives of 20 men and women representing ten tribes who live along the old trails followed by Lewis & Clark. Let tribal members tell you about their cultures and history, from the Knife River villages of North Dakota to the mouth of the Columbia—the way it has been passed down through the generations. Exquisite scenic and wildlife footage bring these tribal homelands to life. (2004, 35 minutes, available through the University of Montana Bookstore at www.umtbookstore.com)

Wiping the Tears of Seven Generations, a film by Kifaru Productions

In December 1990, in sub-zero weather, some 300 Lakota people rode 250 miles on horseback, to commemorate the lives lost at the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890. This film relates the story of the 100-year mourning, and celebrates the visions of unity and spiritual awakening that led to the traditional Lakota ceremony called *Washigila*. “Wiping the Tears,” the Bigfoot Memorial Ride, was that ceremony. (1992, 57 minutes, Kifaru Productions; grades 4-up)

Web Sites**The Basic Indian Stereotypes**

www.bluecorncomics.com/stbasics.htm

An overview and discussion of the history of Native stereotyping, stereotypes in popular media, and examples of personal and cultural stereotypes.

Native Knowledge 360

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360>

Resources for teachers and students created by the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. It includes in-depth lesson plans, primary sources, video interviews and interactive programs. All of these materials are created in cooperation with tribes to tell the real history the way Native Americans want it to be heard.

Discovering Lewis & Clark

www.fortmandan.com/lewisandclark

The world's most authoritative website devoted to the Lewis & Clark Expedition. It has the tools you need to learn everything you've ever wanted to know about the Corps of Discovery, from the technology they used to the Native nations they encountered to the geography of their journey and much more.

When Rivers Were Trails

<https://indianlandtenure.itch.io/when-rivers-were-trails>

When Rivers Were Trails is an interactive 2D adventure game in which Oregon Trail meets Where the Water Tastes Like Wine. The game is designed to teach players about the impact of the allotment acts on Indigenous communities. It tells the story about a displaced Anishinaabeg in the 1890's traveling from Minnesota to California facing Indian Agents, meeting people from different nations, and hunting, fishing and canoeing along the way as they balance their wellbeing. The game was developed by Michigan State University's Games for Entertainment and Learning Lab in collaboration with the Indian Land Tenure Foundation. It's available for Windows, Android, and macOS.

Lewis and Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition

www.lewisandclarkexhibit.org

This Missouri Historical Society exhibition follows the Corps of Discovery into an Indian world of age-old trade networks and achievements in art and oral literature. The exhibit compares the perspectives of Lewis and Clark and the Indian peoples they

encountered on such topics as politics and diplomacy, women, geography, animals, military heroism, language, trade and property, curing and health, and plants. Teaching units and lesson plans for educators are included.

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

www.ncai.org

This organization works to secure and preserve American Indian and Alaska Native sovereign rights under treaties and agreements with the United States, as well as under federal statutes, case law, and administration decisions and rulings. They seek appropriate, equitable and beneficial services and programs for American Indian and Alaska Native governments and people to enhance their quality of life.

Oyate

www.oyate.org

This organization works to ensure that Native lives and histories are portrayed honestly. Their work includes evaluation of texts, resource materials and fiction by and about Native peoples; conducting of teacher workshops on evaluating children's material for anti-Indian biases; and distribution of children's, young adult, and teacher books/materials, with an emphasis on writing and illustration by Native people.

Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

<http://www.lewisandclark.org/>

The foundation shares the incredible story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and has preserved the route of the Corps of Discovery from Monticello in Virginia to Ft. Clatsop in Oregon. This site includes official records, projects and events, "Travel the Trail" information, timelines, curriculum and other information.

Native Village

www.nativevillage.org

Features educational and current events resources for Native youth, teens, families, educators, and friends, including weekly publications of *Native Village Youth* and *Education News* and *Native Village Opportunities and Websites*.

PBS Web Site: Lewis and Clark The Journey of the Corps of Discovery, A film by Ken Burns

www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/

Features detailed information about 16 of the Native tribes encountered by Lewis and Clark as well as background on Lewis, Clark and other expedition members. The site includes journal entries, timelines, maps, lesson plans and classroom resources, audio of expert historians, and a forum with Ken Burns.

Teaching With Documents: The Lewis and Clark Expedition

www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lewis-clark/

Offers lesson ideas for teaching with primary documents and document/photograph analysis worksheets for students. The primary documents featured include the speeches and letters of Thomas Jefferson, the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, merchandise receipts and lists of Indian presents purchased by Lewis and Clark, and photographs from the expedition trail including an Indian petroglyph mentioned in the journals of Lewis and Clark.

TrailTribes.com

www.trailtribes.org

This University of Montana Web site presents native history with a tribal perspective along the trails followed by Lewis and Clark. An interactive map allows viewers to select tribes along the Lewis and Clark trail for a detailed investigation of their traditional and contemporary culture.