



Native Americans Today

8

☑ **Lesson Objectives**

Core Content Objectives

Students will:

- ✓ Explain that Native Americans still live in the United States today
- ✓ Explain how some Native Americans today keep alive some of the traditions and practices of their ancestors

Language Arts Objectives

The following language arts objectives are addressed in this lesson. Objectives aligning with the Common Core State Standards are noted with the corresponding standard in parentheses. Refer to the Alignment Chart for additional standards addressed in all lessons in this domain.

Students will:

- ✓ With prompting and support, describe the connection between the culture of Native American tribes from thousands of years ago and Native Americans in the United States today (RI.K.3)
- ✓ Identify new meanings for the word *wear* and apply them accurately (L.K.4a)
- ✓ Prior to listening to “Native Americans Today,” identify orally what they know and have learned about Native American tribes
- ✓ Evaluate and select read-alouds on the basis of personal choice for rereading

Core Vocabulary

harmony, n. Pleasing combination

Example: When voices sing in harmony, they produce a pleasant combination of sounds.

Variation(s): harmonies

powwows, n. Gatherings of Native Americans, held to celebrate common traditions


Example: Some Native Americans hold several powwows every year.

Variation(s): powwow

traditions, n. Repeated customs, often passed down from generation to generation

Example: One of my family's favorite traditions is to eat pancakes on our birthdays.

Variation(s): tradition

<i>At a Glance</i>	Exercise	Materials	Minutes
<i>Introducing the Read-Aloud</i>	What Have We Already Learned?	Native American Chart	10
	Purpose for Listening		
<i>Presenting the Read-Aloud</i>	Native Americans Today		10
<i>Discussing the Read-Aloud</i>	Comprehension Questions		10
	Word Work: Traditions	drawing paper, drawing tools	5
 Complete Remainder of the Lesson Later in the Day			
<i>Extensions</i>	Student Choice		15
	Multiple Meaning Word Activity: Wear	Poster 4M: Wear	



Native Americans Today

8_A

Introducing the Read-Aloud

10 minutes

What Have We Already Learned?

Review previous read-alouds with students, reminding them that they have learned about three Native American tribes: the Lakota Sioux, the Wampanoag, and the Lenape. Briefly discuss their contrasting ways of life, reminding them that the stories they heard were about the way Native Americans lived long ago. You may wish to review the Native American Chart for these three tribes.

Remind students that there were many, many more tribes than just the Lakota Sioux, the Wampanoag, and the Lenape. Ask them what they think has happened to all of those tribes. Where are they now? Are there any Native Americans living in the United States today?

Explain to students that there are still Native Americans living in the United States today, and that they will hear about some of them today.

Purpose for Listening

Tell students to listen carefully to the read-aloud to find out about Native Americans today.

Native Americans Today

Anishinabe (ah-ni-shi-*NO*-bay), Mohawk, Goshute (*GAH*-shoot), Cree, Dakota, Choctaw, Hopi, Wea (*WEE*-uh), Iroquois, Micmac, Crow, Wampanoag, Cheyenne, Blackfeet, Sioux. All these and many other Native American tribes spread out across the North American continent thousands of years ago. They are still here today.



← **Show image 8A-1: Native Americans of long ago**

Long ago, these Native Americans hunted, farmed, and fished for their food, shelter, and clothing. Rabbits, turkeys, and squirrels dotted the forests. Buffalo, elk, and deer roamed freely about the land. Fish, clams, and whales filled the oceans, rivers, and streams. From the open plains to the forested woodlands to the coastal waters, Native Americans taught themselves how to live in **harmony**¹ with nature. They were hunters and farmers and fishermen.

1 or in agreement



← **Show image 8A-2: Urban scene with tall buildings**

Today some Native American tribes still hunt and farm and fish, but the North American continent looks vastly different now, and they no longer just live entirely off the land. Today many of the forests have disappeared. Highways have replaced the buffalo across the open plains. And many rivers and streams no longer have great numbers of fish swimming in them.

So, how do the Native Americans live today?

What do they eat?

Where do they sleep?

What do they wear?

What do *you* think?



← **Show image 8A-3: Native Americans shopping in supermarket**

Native Americans today still eat corn, squash, fish, and meat just as they have always done. But they buy it in supermarkets.

Native Americans today may use pueblos, tipis, wetus, and hogans some of the time, but most sleep in houses, apartments, and mobile homes as their main homes.

Native Americans today no longer wear fringed leggings and deerskin moccasins.² They wear jeans and sneakers and other clothing worn by other Americans.

2 The word *wear* here means to be dressed in something. *Wear* can also mean damaged because of being used for a long time.



← **Show image 8A-4: Native American drummers**

But many Native Americans still remember their tribal **traditions** of long ago.³ The Wampanoag have clambakes along the coast of Massachusetts today, just like the appanaug Bear, Gull, and Crow attended. The Lakota Sioux have elaborate ceremonies with dancing, drumming, and singing on the plains of North and South Dakota. The Lenape still pass down their stories to their children and grandchildren and still hold their traditional celebrations.

3 Traditions are customs, or ways of doing things, that are passed down from grandparents, to parents, to children.



← **Show image 8A-5: Native American powwow**

Powwows, or gatherings of Native American tribes, are held all across the United States today. At these powwows, the people often dress in native clothes trimmed with beads, feathers, shells, and bones. It is there that Native Americans honor the past and tell family stories.

Penobscot, Navajo, Cherokee, Taos, Rappahannock, Tuscarora, Shinnecock, Kaw, Walla Walla, Umpqua, Zuni, Ute. These are just a few of the many, many Native American tribes living in the United States today. They were the first-known people here, and for many years they were the only people here. Today they share their land with people from all over the world.

Comprehension Questions

10 minutes

1. *Literal* Are there still Native Americans living in the United States today? (yes)
2. *Inferential* How do Native Americans live today? What do they eat and wear? Where do they sleep? (Emphasize that they live just as other Americans today.)
3. *Inferential* How do Native Americans keep their traditions alive today? (They have powwows with singing and dancing; pass down traditional stories; hold elaborate ceremonies.)

[Please continue to model the *Think Pair Share* process for students, as necessary, and scaffold students in their use of the process.]

I am going to ask a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally, I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.


4. *Evaluative Think Pair Share:* Do you think it is important for Native Americans to keep their traditions alive today? Why or why not? (Answers may vary.)
5. After hearing today's read-aloud and questions and answers, do you have any remaining questions? [If time permits, you may wish to allow for individual, group, or class research of the text and/or other resources to answer these remaining questions.]

Word Work: Traditions

5 minutes

1. In the read-aloud you heard, “But many Native Americans still remember their tribal *traditions* of long ago.”
2. Say the word *traditions* with me.
3. Traditions are customs that are often passed down from one generation to another.
4. One of my family’s favorite traditions is watching fireworks on every Fourth of July.
5. Think of traditions you or your family may have or know about. Try to use the word *traditions* when you tell about it. [Ask two or three students. If necessary, guide and/or rephrase the students’ responses: “My family traditions include . . .”]
6. What’s the word we’ve been talking about?

Use a *Drawing and Writing* activity for follow-up. Directions: Draw a picture of one of your favorite traditions.

-  Above and Beyond: For those students who are able to do so, have them label the picture with a simple sentence that includes the word *traditions*.



Complete Remainder of the Lesson Later in the Day



Native Americans Today

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Extensions

15 minutes

Student Choice

Ask students which read-aloud they have heard recently they would like to hear again. If necessary, reread the titles of recent read-alouds to refresh the students' memories and/or show key illustrations from several read-alouds. You may also want to choose one yourself.

Reread the text that is selected. Feel free to pause at different places and talk about vocabulary and information that you did not discuss previously during the read-aloud.

After the read-aloud, ask students if they noticed anything new or different during the second reading that they did not notice during the first reading. Also, ask them to try to express why they like this read-aloud. Remember to repeat and expand upon each response using richer and more complex language, including, if possible, any read-aloud vocabulary.

↔ Multiple Meaning Word Activity

Multiple Choice: Wear

[Show poster 4M: Wear.] Label the pictures on the poster:

“A” for Native Americans wearing tribal clothing and items

“B” for shoes that are obviously worn out

“C” for children who are worn out

Students can refer to the letters in their answers, or they can walk up to the poster and point to the picture of the meaning of the word you are describing.

1. In the read-aloud you heard, “Native Americans today no longer *wear* fringed leggings and deerskin moccasins. They wear jeans and sneakers, just as you and I do.”
2. Which picture shows Native Americans wearing tribal clothing? (A)
3. *Wear* also means other things. You can say that something might “wear you out” when it makes you very tired. Which picture shows this? (C)
4. *Wear* can also be used in “wear out” or “worn out” to talk about something that is used for a long time and is damaged or may no longer be useful. Which picture shows this? (B)
5. Now that we have reviewed the different meanings for *wear*, quiz your neighbor on these different meanings. Try to use complete sentences. For example, you could say, “Running around the backyard with her dog wears Samantha out.” And your neighbor should respond, “That’s C.”