

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

**Grade Level:**

**K-5**

**Date:**

**Subject:**

**Social Studies  
and Writing**

**Teacher:**

## CCRS AND TEKS

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Paper for Booklet (You can use the attached booklet handout.)
- Video
- Crayons and Colored Pencils
- Blurb on [Contributions](#)

## OBJECTIVE (STUDENT FRIENDLY TERMS)

I can learn about the history of Indigenous Peoples' Day and the importance of Native Americans in the world.

## BACK BACKGROUND INFORMATION TEACHERS

Many calendars still list October 14th as Columbus Day. Many cities and states choose to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 14th instead.

It is important to note the controversy and varying viewpoints that some people hold about Indigenous Peoples' Day especially because it is not currently recognized as a federal or national holiday.

This lesson is to show students the importance of celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day so teachers can go into depth of the history of when it was first celebrated as a counter to Columbus Day.

## POSSIBLE MISCONCEPTIONS/ MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- With students, you may have to state this so they know that it is still not widely accepted. Be sure to tell them of the importance of ensuring that we celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day because Native Americans have played, and continue to play, a pivotal role in shaping our country.
- Make sure to also address the student's language—students should not use the term “Indians.” Have the students learn that Columbus called Indigenous Peoples Indians because he thought he crossed the Indian Ocean and arrived in India instead of the Americas. Instead students should use Native Americans or Indigenous Peoples.



# PROCEDURE(S)

# TEACHER GUIDE

## ANTICIPATORY SET (LAUNCH/HOOK)

Show students the video by PBS Kids: <https://houstontpb.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/indigenous-peoples-all-about-the-holidays/indigenous-peoples-all-about-the-holidays/>

Tell students- Today is Indigenous Peoples' Day! This is a very special holiday because it allows us to celebrate all Native Americans that live in the United States and their contributions!

## PLAN TO DO

1. Instead of celebrating Columbus Day, many cities and states are starting to recognize today as Indigenous Peoples' Day because of the harm Columbus brought upon Indigenous People. Instead of celebrating someone who is seen in a negative light, we choose to celebrate the people who helped, and continue to help, shape our country.

2. Today we are going to make a book about the importance of celebrating Native Americans! It also allows us to make sure we celebrate all of the things Indigenous People have done for us and the impact they have on our way of life.

3. Teacher will pass out the paper for students to complete their book. For students that are younger, you can use the book with the premade sentence stems. For the older students, you can have them use the created blurbs to write their book about the importance of Native Americans by focusing on one idea or multiple ideas.

## ASSESSMENT— EVALUATION

- Have the students completed an exit ticket? Can the students answer a question once they complete their book?
- For older students- students can answer the question: Why is it important to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day?
- For younger students, they can use the following sentence stem- It is important to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day because\_\_\_\_\_.

## CLOSURE

Today, we learned about a special day and why Native Americans are so important. Take some time to share the books that you have made with your shoulder partner or table groups so that we can help learn even more.

## EXTENSIONS/ DIFFERENTIATION

- **ADAPTATIONS:** For younger students, you can also show the Brain Pop video about Native Americans and explain that today is Indigenous Peoples' Day. For Kindergarten students, the book may already be pre-made and the students have to fill in individual words in the stems provided or draw pictures of their book. It will also be helpful for all students to have a teacher created book ahead of time to give them an idea of what the book will look like.
- **EXTENSIONS:** Have older students write about the varying viewpoints of Columbus Day vs. Indigenous Peoples' Day. You can have them write an opinion paper on whether or not they believe Indigenous Peoples' Day should be a federally recognized holiday.
- You can also have the students research the different states and cities that recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day and determine the reasons and rationale as to why they made that decision.



# BE YOU WHO ARE (NATIVES TODAY) GUIDED RESEARCH QUESTIONS

USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO HELP GUIDE YOU AS YOU LEARN.

1. WHAT IS YOUR PERSON'S NAME AND WHAT DO THEY DO?
2. WHAT INTERESTING FACTS HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOUR PERSON?
3. WHY ARE THEY AN IMPORTANT NATIVE AMERICAN FIGURE?
4. HOW IS THIS PERSON INFLUENCING OTHER NATIVE AMERICANS TODAY?
5. HOW IS THIS PERSON "BEING WHO THEY ARE?"
6. HOW IS THIS PERSON HONORING THE NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE WITH THEIR WORK?





# LET'S CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Indigenous Peoples'  
Day is on

Blank white rectangular box for writing.

We celebrate this  
day to

White rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.

Native Americans are  
important because

White rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.

Solid yellow rectangular box.



Native Americans  
have aslo

White rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.

Solid yellow rectangular box.

Without Native  
Americans, we  
wouldn't have

White rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.

Solid yellow rectangular box.

We also wouldn't have

White rectangular box with horizontal lines for writing.

Solid yellow rectangular box.

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LET'S CELEBRATE  
**INDIGENOUS**  
PEOPLES' DAY

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# NATIVE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
NATIVE AMERICAN  
CONTRIBUTIONS,  
PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.NRCS.USDA.  
GOV/INTERNET/  
FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/  
NRCS141P2\\_024206.  
PDF](http://WWW.NRCS.USDA.GOV/INTERNET/FSE_DOCUMENTS/NRCS141P2_024206.PDF)

