

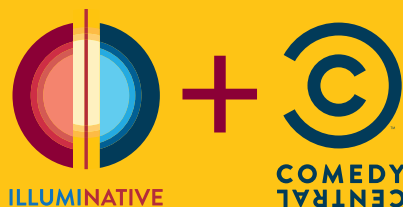
INVISIBLE NATION

KLEPPER DOCUSERIES

VIEWERS GUIDE



A 30-MINUTE EPISODE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF INVISIBILITY ON CONTEMPORARY NATIVE PEOPLES. THIS EPISODE IS ONE OF EIGHT FEATURED IN THE KLEPPER DOCUSERIES ON COMEDY CENTRAL.



KLEPPER EPISODE SYNOPSIS:

ABOUT THE SHOW

Klepper is a docuseries that follows host Jordan Klepper as he hits the road and leaves the comfort of his desk behind. Whether he's in a capsized boat with environmental protesters in a Louisiana bayou or waiting to post bail at the Fulton County Jail in Georgia, Jordan is on the front lines of American activism.

Jordan follows Representative Deb Haaland (D-NM) as she makes history as one of the first Native American women elected to Congress. Inspired by research that exposed staggering inequality experienced by indigenous populations, Jordan heads to Michigan, Wisconsin, and New Mexico to understand modern Native American invisibility and his own role in a damaging stereotype.

The episode features Crystal Echo Hawk, CEO of IllumiNative and Echo Hawk Consulting, who guides Jordan through the research findings on the impact of invisibility on Native peoples. Echo Hawk helps Jordan see how critical it is to fight this invisibility and to challenge toxic stereotypes and misinformation that fills the void created by the erasure of Native peoples in media, pop culture, K-12 education and throughout society by lifting up and learning from the voices and issues of contemporary Native peoples. She helps Jordan to understand what it means to be a good ally.

THIS GUIDE IS FOR:

This written guide is for viewers who want to learn more about the issues central to this episode, specifically invisibility, toxic stereotypes, privilege, and being a good ally. It is useful to ally audiences who want to examine their role in invisibility, damaging stereotypes, to learn more about systemic racism perpetuated by invisibility, and what they can do about it. Native peoples and organizations can use this as a resource as it provides critical questions and additional materials on how Native communities can use the episode to facilitate conversations with potential allies. The content can be used at community screenings, university settings and clubs, Native centers, neighborhood groups, book clubs, and by ally groups and pop culture change makers. Those who want to go deeper can download IllumiNative's Take Action Tools here and read the comprehensive research Reclaiming Native Truth here.



BACKGROUND ON THE RESEARCH

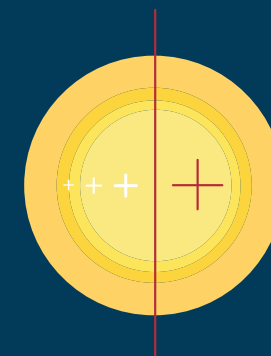
Reclaiming Native Truth research confirmed that invisibility and erasure of Native peoples, voices, contributions, and issues fuels bias and racism — in schools, pop culture, the media, the courts, and Congress. Invisibility creates a void that is filled with toxic stereotypes and misperceptions— such as racist sports mascots, over-sexualized portrayals of Native women, offensive Halloween costumes, myths, and inaccurate representations in movies, TV, and news. These stereotypes are dehumanizing and damaging. IllumiNative was born from this research and is building the infrastructure for a national movement of movements to disrupt invisibility, smash stereotypes, and amplify new Native voices.

NOTE: THE EPISODE HAS ADULT LANGUAGE AND SUBJECT MATTER.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ✦ What do you know about Native American History?
- ✦ What do you know about contemporary Native Americans and issues?
- ✦ What do you think tribal sovereignty means?
- ✦ What assumptions do you make about Native tribes?

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DISCUSSION SECTION

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW TRIBAL HISTORY OR THAT NATIVE PEOPLE EXIST TODAY

As of 2018, there are **573** FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED sovereign Indian nations in the U.S.¹

While most Native people remain connected to their sovereign tribal communities, **APPROXIMATELY THREE-FOURTHS** also live in urban and suburban areas.

Approximately 5.2 Million people, or 5.7% Of the U.S. Population, identify as being solely native american or native and another racial or ethnic group(s). From 2000-2010, those self-identifying as having indigenous american origins and community connections has grown 26.7% -- Almost three times the national population growth of 9.7%.²

36% OF AMERICANS INTERVIEWED FOR RECLAIMING NATIVE TRUTH BELIEVE THEY HAVE NATIVE HERITAGE.

Since the founding of the United States, treaties have defined the relationship between many Native American nations and the U.S. More than 370 ratified treaties have helped the u.S. Expand its territory and led to many broken promises made to Native Americans. Treaties matter, not only to Native Americans, but to everyone who lives in the U.S. This country acquired much of its land through treaties with Indian tribes. These agreements are fundamental to understanding how the U.S. was created, and how its citizens obtained the land and natural resources they enjoy today.

“NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE CHANGED. WE’RE FULLY CONTEMPORARY. WE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO SOCIETY. WE EXIST IN ALL DOMAINS AND SPACES OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.”

– DR. STEPHANIE FRYBERG, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

TOXIC LANGUAGE AND IMAGERY MUST CHANGE

Many Americans do not understand that some terms associated with Native peoples are derogatory or racist such as “Redskins” and “squaw.” The people of the La Courte Oreilles reservation featured in *Invisible Nation* successfully advocated to change the name of Squaw Lake, and Squaw Bay because the term is offensive and sexist. Crystal later explains that Redface is a term used to describe the wearing of feathers and war paint by non-Natives, which perpetuates American Indian stereotypes and is analogous to wearing Blackface. Redface is associated with racist sports mascots and is offensive to Native peoples. Similarly, while Megan Kelly is talking about Blackface there is an image of a non-Native person dressed up as Pocahontas in the back of the set. Many non-Natives are unaware that it’s inappropriate to dress up like Pocahontas and play “Indian.”

Many Americans do not understand that some terms associated with Native peoples are derogatory or racist such as “Redskins” and “squaw.” The Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa’s are advocating to change the name of Squaw Lake and Squaw Bay because the term is offensive and sexist.

Crystal talks about the misrepresentation of Native Americans and how the lack of modern Native visibility throw us into historical stereotypes. She later gives an example of a segment on Megan Kelly’s talk show about Blackface that there is an image of a non-Native person dressed up as Pocahontas in the back of the set. Many non-Natives are unaware that it’s inappropriate to dress up like Pocahontas and play “Indian.” It is understood in America that Blackface is wrong, but they don’t apply those same rules to Redface.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ Why is it critical to remove derogatory language and imagery about Native peoples from mainstream culture?
- ★ How does perpetuating the use of offensive and stereotypical language and imagery enable discrimination, bias, and racism against Native peoples?
- ★ Why is it inappropriate to wear Redface, dress up like an “Indian” or Pocahontas for Halloween?
- ★ In your community, are there public spaces, monuments, or school sports mascots that perpetuate negative portrayals and racist stereotypes?
- ★ Discuss what you can do to change the language/images in public spaces e.g., towns, lakes, names, and mascots.

REDFACE IS EQUALLY AS RACIST AND OFFENSIVE AS BLACKFACE.



INVISIBILITY IS NOT A SUPERPOWER

“INVISIBILITY IS NOT A SUPERPOWER; IT’S ACTUALLY ONE OF THE BIGGEST THREATS WE FACE. WHEN THEY DON’T SEE US, WE DON’T EXIST, SO WE OFTEN DON’T GET INCLUDED IN IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION.”

– CRYSTAL ECHO HAWK, CEO ILLUMINATIVE

Across the K-12 education system, pop culture, entertainment, news media, social media, and the judicial system, the voices and stories of contemporary Native peoples are missing. Into this void spring, inaccurate or romanticized narratives, ripe with myths and misperceptions. Nearly 80% of Americans polled admitted to knowing little to nothing about Native Americans and 72% rarely or never encounter information about Native Americans.

THE CONSEQUENCES ARE DIRE:

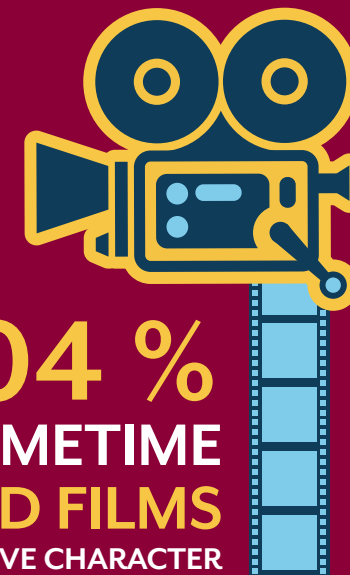
- ★ Native Americans are being killed by police at a rate higher than any other group
- ★ Native American women experience the highest rates of rape and assault of any population and the majority of these assaults are committed by non-Native perpetrators
- ★ Native American youth have the highest rate of suicide

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ★ In the episode, Jordan is hard-pressed to name a contemporary Native character or film. Can you?
- ★ What are your thoughts about how Native peoples are covered in the media? For example, how could the Nathan Philips coverage have been led by Native peoples?
- ★ Why is it critical to have Native peoples represented in entertainment and news media?

SYSTEMIC INVISIBILITY:

ONLY
0-.04 %
OF PRIMETIME
TV AND FILMS
HAVE A NATIVE CHARACTER



87%
OF STATE
HISTORY STANDARDS
DON'T MENTION
NATIVE AMERICAN
HISTORY
AFTER 1900**



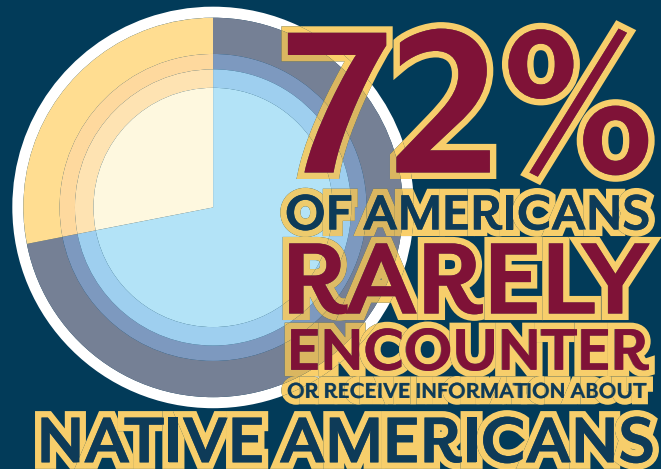
ANTIQUATED PORTRAYALS OF NATIVE PEOPLES
APPEAR IN 95%
OF THE FIRST 100 GOOGLE SEARCHES WHEN SEARCHING
“NATIVE AMERICAN” or “AMERICAN INDIAN”

ENTERTAINMENT AND MEDIA FRIEND OR FOE

Invisible Nation was produced around the powerful research insights unearthed in Reclaiming Native Truth project, co-led by Crystal Echo Hawk and Echo Hawk Consulting. These research findings paved the way for Crystal Echo Hawk to launch *IllumiNative* and aspire to build a national movement of movements to disrupt invisibility and change how Native peoples are represented in pop culture, media, and K-12 education.

As seen in the episode, most stories about Native peoples are antiquated often revolving around a “white savior” figure and portray Native peoples in a romanticized or stereotypical fashion. However, the research shows that 78% of all Americans believe it is important to feature more stories about Native Americans on TV, in movies, and all other entertainment.

Why are narratives e.g., stories, so important? Perceptions, messages, myths, stereotypes, and personal or secondary experiences create a dominant narrative or story, a way of viewing or understanding the world. Narratives work like a filter. People ignore information that doesn't fit into their narrative, i.e., their story about the world. Narratives are created and reinforced by the dominant culture.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ✦ Jordan admits that Native graffiti artist Sintex doesn't look Native American to him. What do you imagine a Native person to look like?
- ✦ Various Native characters in the episode debunk myths about Native peoples. “We don't live in Tepees.” “We have computers and cell phones.” “We don't wear headdresses.” Talk about the stereotypes you hold about Native peoples?
- ✦ How did Invisible Nation change your perception of Native peoples?
- ✦ What do you think the entertainment and media industry can do to improve the story about Native peoples?



I WANT TO BE AN ALLY

In the episode, Jordan asks Crystal how to be an ally and not an appropriator. **During the course of the episode he learns from all of the Native people he meets that there are many ways to be a good ally.** You are critical to our movement.

Please educate yourself about Native American history, issues, and contemporary Native peoples by reading credible Native-developed resources. Advocate for Native representation by Native peoples! **Download *IllumiNative: Change the Story. Change the Future. Insights and Action Guide* to learn how to be an ally in positive and powerful ways.**

Accurate information, authentic representation, and narrative disruption are essential to ending racism, bias, and discrimination against Native peoples. We need Native Americans and allies to work together and advocate for change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ✦ In the episode, Jordan reveals he was part of the “Indian Guides” as a child. How have you perpetuated stereotypes or engaged in inappropriate events or clubs?
- ✦ Do you now see Native costumes like Pocahontas as offensive and Native mascots as inappropriate?
- ✦ What can you do to incorporate Native peoples into your work, business, or production?

“I WANT TO BE A GOOD ALLY ON CRYSTAL’S MISSION, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING WHITE LIBERALS... OFTEN NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO MOVE FORWARD IN A PRO-NATIVE WAY. RNT, P. 37.”

– JORDAN KLEPPER

BE A GOOD ALLY



GET INFORMED:

READ *ILLUMINATIVE: CHANGE THE STORY. CHANGE THE FUTURE. INSIGHTS AND ACTION GUIDE*



TURN OVER THE MIC:

SUPPORT NATIVE PEOPLES IN TELLING THEIR OWN STORIES



SMASH STEREOTYPES:

CALL OUT STEREOTYPES THAT YOU SEE IN THE MEDIA; WRITE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



DEMAND INCLUSIVE AND ACCURATE HISTORY:

AUDIT, YOUR CHILDREN’S SCHOOL



ADVOCATE FOR NATIVE SOVEREIGNTY AND RIGHTS:

LET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES KNOW YOU STAND WITH NATIVE PEOPLES

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IS CRITICAL

STANDING ROCK

Deb Haaland ran for election because she wants to increase discourse about Native American issues specifically, climate change, the environment, and missing and murdered indigenous women. Haaland is one of two Native women elected to the 2018 Congress and one of four Native representatives out of 535 members in Congress. Her election is historic. Already, Congresswoman Haaland has increased awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women and introduced legislation to remove or change portrayals of Native peoples in Washington, among many other actions.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: According to the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC), a study released by the U.S. Department

of Justice found that in some tribal communities, American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average. Over the last decade, awareness of this national issue has increased, but more must be done to stop disappearances and save lives. To find tools and resources to facilitate discussions and raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women visit the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center. Read Deb Haaland's article here. Learn more about the first-ever hearing led by the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples in the U.S. House of Representatives on missing and murdered indigenous women here.

The movement at Standing Rock has significantly undermined the systemic erasure of Native peoples from the dominant American narrative. At a time when most Americans and tribal nations no longer existed in the U.S., Americans were presented with a movement that forced a new conversation around environmental racism and justice, values, the contemporary treaty and civil rights of Native Americans.

POTENTIAL DISCUSS QUESTIONS

- ✦ Talk about how critical it is to have individuals in Congress and the House that represent the diverse fabric of American society.
- ✦ How did Standing Rock change your awareness of Native peoples?
- ✦ How can you help elevate Native American candidates and issues in your community?



“[CONGRESSWOMAN] DEB HAALAND IS A BADASS.”

– CRYSTAL ECHO HAWK, CEO ILLUMINATIVE



NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY

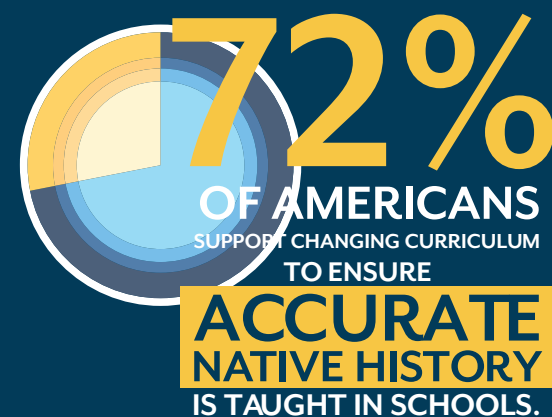
87% of state-level history standards fail to cover Native people's history in a post-1900 context. The role of education in contributing to the belief that Native peoples are either dwindling or no longer exist and perpetuating stereotypes of Native people can't be underestimated. Judges, lawyers, politicians are all exposed, or not, to antiquated visions of Native peoples. Because few ever come in contact with Native peoples or take a tribal law class, they lean on what they learned in school to form their opinions. Teachers rate Native American history as one of the most inaccurate subjects that teach.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ✦ What did you learn about Native peoples in primary or secondary school?
- ✦ Do you think your education was accurate or representational?
- ✦ Did you learn anything about contemporary Native peoples?
- ✦ Did you learn anything about tribal sovereignty or tribal nations?
- ✦ What do you think needs to change either locally or nationally to ensure Native history is accurate and modern?



MAKE NO MENTION
OF A SINGLE NATIVE AMERICAN IN
K-12 CURRICULUM.*



ILLUMINATIVE

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