



#8763

HOW THE WEST IS FUN: AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE

Grade Levels: 3-8
18 minutes
MEDIA GUILD 1998

DESCRIPTION

Montana middle school students narrate their exploration of Native American culture. A Blackfoot rancher explains the value of the horse as the students saddle up. A Salish language teacher discusses "kinship" words and the importance of family. A hide tanner demonstrates each step of the process before she can make beautiful traditional clothing. The students learn the worth and dignity of these Native American cultures.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Behavioral Studies

- ◆ Standard: Understands that group and cultural influences contribute to human development, identity, and behavior
 - Benchmark: Understands that each culture has distinctive patterns of behavior that are usually practiced by most of the people who grow up in it

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To study American Indian customs, traditions and values.
2. To illustrate the importance of one's native language.
3. To examine the creation of traditional clothing and crafts.
4. To create a multicultural perspective that respects the dignity and worth of all people.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Young students visit members of the Blackfeet and Salish tribes and learn about American Indian culture in this video.

A horse wrangler explains the Indians' great respect for the horse and the earth.

Students also learn the central importance of family in the Indian culture represented by the many kinship words in different Indian languages.

A hide tanner demonstrates each step of the traditional process for preparing animal hides from scraping off hair to smoking the hide.

See intricate beadwork on beautiful traditional costumes worn by dancers.

Viewers will understand that it takes time and patience to master these skills.

Discussions of discrimination and the importance of family will give viewers much to think about.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why was the horse important to some Indian tribes?
2. What are the steps for tanning a hide?
3. Why are Indian languages still being taught?
4. What is the role of family in the Indian culture?
5. Discuss how physical geography influenced the way Indian nations adapted to their natural environment.
6. Discuss the American Indians' varied customs and various folklore traditions.
7. How have local producers used natural resources to produce goods?



Applications and Activities

Learn more about another tribe. Take notes on at least three of the following areas: location, food, arts and crafts, daily life and traditions. Share your most interesting information in a brief oral report.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- The Legend of the Blue Bonnet #2491
- Native Americans: People of the Plains #3060



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ALASKA NATIVES ONLINE**

<http://members.aol.com/waya94/tlingan2.htm>

Many topics on Alaska Native and American Indian history, art, celebrities, culture, dance, storytelling, photographs, music, languages, writers, radio, media, and issues.

- **AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH**

<http://www.health.org/gpower/girlarea/11nov/nativeamer.htm>

Find out what American Indian/Alaska Native tribes come from your state by clicking on specific areas on the map. Also, learn some interesting facts about games, words, foods, and others that came from the American Indian language.

- **INFOPLEASE: AMERICAN INDIAN**

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/a0192523.html>

Know how many American Indian languages are spoken at home; click on "Facts About American Indians Today," "First Native American Newspaper," and subsequent links to different topics will follow.

