

Bringing Native American Culture to Life in your Classroom

Thank you so much for your interest in this important topic! I know we just touched the tip of the iceberg at this AMS session. But you will find more free information on my website, www.MINASIllinois.org, including free downloadable lesson plans on Thanksgiving and Columbus Day, as well as an archive of newsletters.

This first section of recommended reference books will provide you with resources to be used toward a study of historic Native American cultures, followed by some ideas for art projects. I have then included a list of suggested activities and recommended resources for a study of pre-historic cultures in the Midwest. Finally, I have included a select bibliography of books by Native authors for read-aloud, book group or book reports compiled by Debbie Reese, a respected Native educator and reviewer.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments. I look forward to hearing from you!

Migwetch (*thank you*),

Linda Bechtle

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Some Must-Have Reference Books

(and some non-Amazon suppliers)

⊕ Ajmera, Maya and Arlene Hirschfelder, *Children of Native America Today* ISBN 1570919658 *This book invites readers to explore Native nations, focusing on the children who live, learn, and play in tribal communities throughout the United States. These children celebrate a proud heritage, a rich culture, and a close-knit society. They participate in cultural activities such as totem pole carving, storytelling, and dancing at a powwow, as well as enjoying video games, going to school, and other contemporary pastimes.*

⊕ Bill Bigelow and Bob Peterson, *Rethinking Columbus: The Next 500 Years* ISBN 0-942961-20-X *An essential resource for teachers providing a balanced look at the myth of Columbus.*

Rethinking Schools
1001 East Keefe Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414)964-9646

www.rethinkingschools.org

- ⊕ Harvey, Karen D. Teaching About Native Americans ISBN : 0879860731 Published for the National Council for the Social Studies, this is a clear, concise look at the rationale
- ⊕ Harvey, Karen D. and Lisa D. Harjo, Indian Country: A History of Native People in America ISBN 1-55591-428-4 *Written for teachers, parents and students, this book retells Native American history through essays, stories and speeches. Lesson plans, activities and supplemental reading for grades 6-12 are included.*
- ⊕ Hazen-Hammond, Susan, Timelines of Native American History ISBN 0-399-52307-3
A comprehensive overview, told in year-by-year entries, of the 22,000-year history of our indigenous peoples.
- ⊕ Dennis, Yvonne Wakim and Arlene Hirschfelder, A Kid's Guide to Native American History: More than 50 Activities (A Kid's Guide series) ISBN-10: 1556528027 *Hands-on activities, games, and crafts introduce children to the diversity of Native American cultures in nine geographical areas and teach them about the people, experiences, and events that have helped shape America, past and present.*
- ⊕ Jones, Guy W. and Sally Moomaw, Lessons From Turtle Island: Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms ISBN 1-929610-25-4 *Written by educators, this wonderful book offers unique perspectives on including authentic learning experiences about Native Americans in early childhood classrooms.*
- ⊕ Kerner, Kathy and Carole Durham, They Taught You Wrong: Raising Cultural Consciousness of Stereotypes and Misconceptions about American Indians *A wonderful compilation of the misconceptions adults and children face about Native Americans, as well as a list of stereotypical books to be avoided at home and in the classroom.*

Contact Carole Durham at
1016 Woodhaven Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24502
(804)239-7496 or ribonshirt@aol.com
- ⊕ Krull, Kathleen and David Hautzig, One Nation Many Tribes: How Kids Live in Milwaukee's Indian Community (A World of My Own) ISBN 0525674403. *Chronicles the lives of young Thirza Defoe, a half Ojibwa and half Oneida Indian, and Shawnee Ford, another Native American, offering readers an introduction to Native American life among the tribes of southern Wisconsin.*
- ⊕ Loewen, James W., Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong ISBN 0-684-81886-8 *This award-winning author surveyed 12 leading high school history texts and examines the myths and misinformation they present. Fascinating reading.*

✦ Nies, Judith, Native American History ISBN 0-345-39350-3

A wonderful chronological account of Native American history as it evolved against the backdrop of world events.

✦ Russell, George, American Indian Facts of Life ISBN 1-811933-05-9 *A fascinating and sobering demographic profile of today's Native tribes and reservations.*

Russell Publications
American Indian Data Resources
9027 North Cobre Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85028-5317
(800)-835-7220

✦ Slapin, Beverly and Doris Seale, A Broken Flute: The Native Experience in Books for Children ISBN 0759107793. *A great collection of reviews of more than 100 children's books by and about Native peoples and a guide for evaluating children's books for anti-Native bias.*

Oyate
2702 Mathews Street
Berkeley, CA 94702
(510)848-6700
oyate@oyate.org

✦ Zinn, Howard, A People's History of the United States 1492-Present ISBN 0-06-092643-0

A very important history book, written from the point of view of those who have been exploited politically and economically.

Some Favorite Native Web Sites

<http://archaeology.about.com/library/atlas/blusil.htm> Links to plenty of Illinois archaeology-related sites

www.cahokiamounds.com Official site of the Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site

www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html Home page of the Bureau of Indian Affairs

www.earthcircleminnesota.com/links.htm Great compendium of links to Native American sites

www.ecesc.k12in.us/currweb/student9/ Very good Web Quest on Miami Indians

www.eiteljorg.org/ejm Site of the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/native.htm> Good links to bibliographies

www.fcpotawatomi.org Site of the Forest County Potawatomi in Wisconsin

www.glifwc.org Site of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission—great info about animal and plant resources in the area

www.glitc.org Site of the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, with info and links to all Wisconsin tribes

www.hanksville.org/NAresources/indices Wonderful links here!

www.hannahville.com Site of the Hannahville Potawatomi community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

www.indiancountrynews.com Home page of the *News From Indian Country*, a national independent Native newspaper

www.indianamiamis.org Miami Nation of Indiana home page

www.kstrom.net/isk/mainmenu.html More than 300 links to Native American resources

www.ku.edu/~kansite/pbp/homepage.html Smokey McKinney's interesting site about the Prairie Band Potawatomi

www.museum.state.il.us/ismsites/dickson/ Site for the Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewiston, IL

www.manataka.org A Native organization with wonderful, downloadable stories, recipes, creation stories, histories, tribal links and much more.

<http://nativeauthors.com> Books of Native authors online

www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/general.html Links to general Native-oriented sites

www.nativeculture.com/lisamitten/nations/html Listings and links to Native nations throughout the country

www.nativeculturelinks.com/ajlabib.htm must reading for any school librarian, this site is a selected bibliography of books compiled by the American Indian Library Association. It reviews books about Native people and presents a list of books to avoid, and why.

www.nativetech.org/bookpages/ gives a list of books on Native topics, many of which can be ordered directly from Amazon.

www.nativeweb.org is a treasure trove of information—how-to's of traditional crafts, recipes, stories, technology and art. Make sure to bookmark this one!

www.nmai.si.edu Site of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian

www.potawatomi.org Site of the Citizen Band Potawatomi in Oklahoma

www.pbpindiantribe.com Official site of the Prairie Band Potawatomi in Kansas

www.peoriatribe.com Official site of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

www.pokagon.com Site of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians in southwest Michigan

www.siue.edu/CAHOKIAMOUNDS/ Virtual tours, pictures of artifacts, and great links to even more information about what was once North America's largest city

www.smithsonianeducation.org/educators/resource_library/american_indian_resources.html this is another treasure trove of virtual exhibits, encyclopedia resources, lesson plans and educational resources.

www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/ihb/amerindians/index.html Information about Native Americans in Indiana

<http://turtleisland.org> News of Canadian indigenous peoples

www.uius.edu/dialogue Documentation and dialogue about the Chief Illiniwek issue

<http://users.anderson.edu/~roebuck/miami.html> Links to websites and info about Miami chief Little Turtle

www.waswagoning.com Site for a great reconstructed Ojibwe village in Lac du Flambeau, WI

www.wea-indian-tribe.com Site of the Wea Indian Tribe in Indiana

The Art of Appropriate Arts and Crafts Activities

Well-meaning teachers may unwittingly perpetuate stereotypes through their choice of crafts activities. A good number of the choices in such books as More Than Just Moccasins or The Kids' Multicultural Art Book are inappropriate because they are culturally insensitive, perpetuate stereotypes and even demean Native cultures.

Here are some of the activities to pass up:

Making feathers, headdresses and "warbonnets": To Native people, feathers are sacred and making headdresses is highly offensive. Feathers are used in ceremonies to carry prayers to the Creator and in many American Indian cultures, were given as a gift after an extraordinary accomplishment, not cut out of construction paper. As a comparison, teachers would not have children make yarmulkes as a strategy to learn about Jewish people!

Totem Poles: When teachers ask their children to make totem poles out of toilet paper rolls, they take away their deep meaning. Totem poles are still carved to preserve important teachings and communicate them to future generations, and they are used in ceremonies.

Peace Pipes: The Pipe is considered sacred by every Native culture and is brought out only for significant occasions. American Indians believe it is highly inappropriate for students to make peace pipes out of toilet paper rolls or any other material.

Drums: To Native people, the drum is sacred and represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth. It is treated with great respect and to be the “drumkeeper” is a high honor. Indian children do not make drums, and for other children to make drums is considered disrespectful.

Sand Paintings: Navajo sand paintings are created for religious or healing ceremonies, and though some designs have been manufactured for the tourist trade, many others are so sacred even photograph taking is not allowed. Suggesting that students make sand paintings “in the Navajo way” is inappropriate. Likewise, Kachinas and Power Shields (or War Shields) are also to be avoided.

Fetish Necklaces: The animal fetishes in traditional Hopi necklaces were given to families and individuals and carry special significance. Some Natives feel that having children carve fetish animals out of soap to make necklaces shows a lack of respect.

Brown bag “vests”, breechclouts and other articles of clothing that encourage children to “dress up like Indians” should be avoided not because they are sacred but because they reinforce the stereotype that all Native people are the same. This type of activity also conveys the notion that children can become Indian by dressing up.

OK...so what does that leave?

Many Native educators suggest creating art activities that anchor to historic events. For instance, use the NMAI poster of Lone Dog’s Winter Count to show how Nakota historians kept track of their yearly events through symbolic painting on the back of a buffalo hide. Students can create their own personal timeline through this activity and it can be tied into other calendar studies.

Link the craft to an artform study. For instance, discuss the roots of ledger art, which evolved from prisoners incarcerated during the wars that forced Natives from their Western lands. When given ledger books to keep their hands busy, these artists drew detailed battle scenes and scenes of their pre-reservation lives. Or examine the styles of contemporary Native artists and ask students to create their own works in the same style.

Tie the craft to literature: Making corn husk dolls would be an appropriate activity during times of harvest; accompany the craft with the Oneida story of the “no face” doll. Likewise, introduce a Dreamcatcher-making activity with the legend of how the dreamcatcher came to be.

You can also tie in math to craft activities. Ask students to create geometric patterns on graph paper than can then be translated to beadwork—or compare the geometric patterns of the Plains to the more floral patterns of the Eastern Woodlands. Geometric patterns are also found in Seminole patchwork of the Southeast and Eastern Woodland applique work. Incorporate sewing skills to re-create Lakota star quilts, as well. Younger students can replicate patterns while stringing beads, or use pony beads to create beaded keychains.

Arlene Hirschfelder and Yvonne Beamer Wakim have written two wonderful resources to guide teachers in choosing appropriate craft activities and we urge you to follow their suggestions: Native Americans Today: Resources and Activities for Educators Grades 4-8 (some of the crafts can be simplified for younger students) and A Kid’s Guide to

Native American History: More than 50 Activities. We also suggest that you contact Native-themed museums as the Mitchell Museum in Evanston and the Schingoethe Center for Native American Studies in Aurora for additional ideas.

Thank you for making the extra effort to provide your students with meaningful and culturally appropriate experiences!

Some Suggested Activities for a Study of Prehistoric Cultures

The Paleoindian Period

- ✧ The Ice Ages in your state
- ✧ Changes in Lake Michigan through time
- ✧ Glaciers and their mark on your state
- ✧ Migration theories
- ✧ The Megafauna of the time
- ✧ Early technology—flintknapping exercise

The Archaic Period

- ✧ Megafauna extinction theories
- ✧ Development of biomes in your state
- ✧ The hunter/gatherer yearly cycle
- ✧ Changes in technology—nut grinding exercise
- ✧ Atlatl and spear throwing exercise
- ✧ The exchange of ideas and items through trade

The Woodland Period

- ✧ The Hopewell cosmology in your state
- ✧ Effigy mounds in the Midwest
- ✧ Cultivating wild plant foods—tasting exercise
- ✧ Pottery making exercise

The Mississippian Period

- ✘ Cahokia—the largest city in North America!
- ✘ Corns, beans and squash—the Three Sisters—gardening exercise
- ✘ The new social order and the first bureaucracy
- ✘ The mystery of Cahokia's demise
- ✘ Archaeology exercises

The Protohistoric Period

- ✘ Animal foods: uses of the buffalo and deer
- ✘ Wild plant foods: uses of the cattail; harvesting wild rice
- ✘ Plant medicines
- ✘ Making cordage from plant fibers exercise
- ✘ Language exercises
- ✘ Pictographs and petroglyphs exercise
- ✘ Plant dyeing and cattail weaving exercise
- ✘ Native recipes

The Historic Period

- ✘ An overview of modern tribes in your state
- ✘ The oral tradition: teaching stories
- ✘ Fingerweaving and beadwork exercises
- ✘ The Fur Trade and cultural changes
- ✘ The French regime: forts and missions
- ✘ War and peace with the British
- ✘ Treaties and removal
- ✘ Midwest reservations
- ✘ Current issues: repatriation, treaty rights, casinos

Bibliography for Prehistoric Cultures

(this is by no means an exhaustive list—but it will get you started!)

Titles marked with an asterisk (*) are appropriate for students

General Archaeology

Fagan, Brian, The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America ISBN 0-500-27515-7

Kopper, Philip, The Smithsonian Book of North American Indians Before the Coming of the Europeans
ISBN 0-89599-018-0

* Panchyk, Richard, Archaeology for Kids: Uncovering the Mysteries of Our Past ISBN1-55652-395-5

Snow, Dean, The Archaeology of North America ISBN 1-55546-0353-1

Thomas, David Hurst, Exploring Ancient North America: An Archaeological Guide ISBN 0-415-92359-X

Thomas, David Hurst, Exploring Native North America ISBN 0-965-047732

Time-Life Books, Lost Civilizations: Mound Builders and Cliff Dwellers ISBN 0-8094-9858-8

Illinois

* Dickson Mounds Museum, A New View of the Past

* Duel, Thorne, American Indian Ways of Life Story of Illinois State Museum Illinois No. 9

* Illinois Association for Advancement of Archaeology, Discover Illinois Archaeology and Places of the Past: Illinois Archaeological Sites and Exhibits

Illinois Archaeological Survey, Illinois Archaeology Bulletin 1

Illinois Archaeological Survey, Indian Mounds and Villages in Illinois Bulletin 2

Illinois Archaeological Survey, Chicago Area Archaeology Bulletin 3

Illinois Archaeological Survey, Reports on Illinois Prehistory: I Bulletin 4

* Illinois State Museum, The Living Museum: Peoples of the Past

Killey, Myrna, Illinois' Ice Age Legacy Geoscience Education Series 14, Illinois State Geological Society

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Markman, Charles, Chicago Before History: The Prehistoric Archaeology of a Modern Metropolitan Area
ISBN 0-942579-12-7

* Sattler, Helen Roney, The Earliest Americans ISBN 0-618-11146-8

Smith, Harriet, Prehistoric People of Illinois Chicago Natural History Museum-Museum Stories #410
through 418

Struever, Stuart and Felicia Holton, Koster: Americans in Search of Their Prehistoric Past
ISBN 0-385-00406-0

Throop, Addison, Mound Builders of Illinois

Regional

Birmingham, Robert and Leslie Eisenberg, Indian Mounds of Wisconsin ISBN 0-299-16874-3

Highsmith, Hugh, The Mounds of Koshkonong and Rock River: A History of Ancient Indian Earthworks in Wisconsin ISBN 1-57950-010-2

Holman, J. Alan, Ancient Life of the Great Lakes Basin ISBN 0-472-06534-3

Kellar, James, An Introduction to the Prehistory of Indiana ISBN 0-87195-044-8

Malone, Bobbie, Digging and Discovery: Wisconsin Archaeology Teacher's Guide and Student Materials
ISBN 0-87020-232-1

Malone, Bobbie, Learning From the Land: Wisconsin Land Use Teacher's Guide and Student Materials
ISBN 0-87020-295-2

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Quimby, George Irving, Indian Life in the Upper Great Lakes 11,000 B.C. to A.D. 1800 ISBN 0-226-70043-7

Woodward, Susan and Jerry McDonald, Indian Mounds of the Middle Ohio Valley ISBN 0-939923-72-6

Ritzenthaler, Robert, Prehistoric Indians of Wisconsin Milwaukee Public Museum Popular Science Handbook Series No. 4

Ice Age

* Caselli, Giovanni, The Everyday Life of An Ice Age Hunter ISBN 0-87226-103-4

* Cooper, Margaret, Exploring the Ice Age ISBN 0-689-82556-0

Lister, Adrian and Paul, Bahn Mammoths ISBN 0-02-572985-3

* McDonald, Fiona, The Stone Age News ISBN 0-7636-1291-X

* Miller, Debbie, A Woolly Mammoth Journey ISBN 0-316-57212-8

* Simon, Seymour, Icebergs and Glaciers ISBN 0-688-06186-9

Tankersly, Kenneth, In Search of Ice Age Americans ISBN 1-58685-021-0

www.museum.state.il.us/exhibits/ice_ages/

www.overmap.com/ilice.htm

www.museum.state.il.us/exhibits/larson

Paleoindian and Archaic Periods

www3.niu.edu/historical/buildings/prehistory_sig.html

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/ism/corridor/archo/period/period.htm>

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/pre/htmls/paleo.html

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/pre/htmls/archaic.html

Woodland Period

Caldwell, Joseph and Robert Hall, eds. Hopewellian Studies Illinois State Museum

Shaffer, Lynda Norene, Native Americans Before 1492: The Moundbuilding Centers of the Eastern Woodlands ISBN 1-56324-030-0

Silverberg, Robert, The Mound Builders ISBN 0-8214-0839-9

www.consciouschoice.com/culture/burialmounds1311.html

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/pre/htmls/woodland.html

Mississippian Period

www.mississippian-artifacts.com/

www.comp-archaeology.org/USMississippian.htm

<http://medicine.wustl.edu/~mckinney/cahokia/cahokia.html>

www.beloit.edu/~museum/logan/mississippian/introduction/mississippian.htm

www.gower.k12.il.us/oldill/mississi.htm

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/pre/htmls/miss.html

Historic

Hoxie, Frederick E. (ed.), Encyclopedia of North American Indians Houghton Mifflin, Boston.

Jablow, Joseph, Indians of Illinois and Indiana: Illinois, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi Indians. Garland, New York.

Kinietz, W. Vernon, The Indians of the Western Great Lakes 1615-1760 ISBN 0-472-06107-0

Kallen, Stuart, Native Americans of the Great Lakes ISBN 1-56006-568-0

Ritzenthaler, Robert E. and Pat, The Woodland Indians of the Western Great Lakes ISBN 0-88133-548-7

Tanner, Helen H. (ed.), Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History ISBN 0-8061-2056-8

Temple, Wayne C. Indian Villages of the Illinois Country Scientific Papers Vol. 2, Part 2. Illinois State Museum, Springfield.

Trigger, Bruce G. (ed.) Handbook of North American Indians, Vol. 15, Northeast. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Waldman, Carl, Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes
ISBN 0-8160-3964-X

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/nat_amer/post/index.html

www.MINASIllinois.org (for Columbus Day curriculum and activities)

Recommended Elementary/Middle School/YA Native American Literature from

A RESOURCE LIST FOR TEACHING -TO OR ABOUT- NATIVE AMERICANS

Developed by Debbie Reese and Jean Mendoza

RF - Realistic Fiction; HF - Historical Fiction; NF - Nonfiction; P - Poetry; TL - Traditional Literature; B - Biography; AB - Autobiography; E - Elementary; M - Middle School; YA - Young Adult

Alexie, Sherman. (1994) *Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight In Heaven*. New York: Harperperennial. (RF - YA)

Allen, Paula Gunn. (2001) *As Long As the Rivers Flow: The Stories of Nine Native Americans*. New York: Scholastic (B - E/M)

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Bruchac, Joseph. (1993). *Fox Song*. Philomel Books (F - E/M).

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 (2006) *The Game of Silence*. New York: HarperCollins. (HF-E/M)
 (2010) *The Porcupine Year*. New York: HarperCollins. (HF-E/M)
 (2013) *Chickadee*. New York: HarperCollins. (HF-E/M)
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