Indigenous Updates - April / Łidekwak'kya Ts'ana (Zuni)

APS-Indian Education Department would like to share with you our monthly messaging flier in building connections and relationships with our Native American students, families, and communities. Taking this time to celebrate and empower your Indigenous students will create harmonious and supportive schools.

Join us in Commending Our Students

JAG-NM Competition Winners:

- Career Preparation: Lillian Knight, Rio Grande II
- Financial Literacy: Anthony Duran, Rio Grande I
- Project-Based Learning (PBL): Leslie Marquez, Sara Colmenero, Martha Carrasco, Rio Grande II
- Business Plan: Makenzi Reyes, Victor Winnikoff, Stephanie Quezada, Rio Grande II
- Knowledge Bowl: Francisco Muniz, Jacoby Haynes, Diego Quintana, Rio Grande I
- Prepared Speaking: Christopher Becenti, Del Norte
- LOVE Project: Nevaeh Orr, Deondre Simmons, Kaiden Martinez, Cibola
- Creative Decision Making: Bryan Soltero, Andrew Olivas, Heidi Neri, Rio Grande II
- Employability Skills: Andrea Herrera, Rio Grande I
- *Service Project: Cibola (Cibola students already attending NCDC may represent in this competition)
- *Outstanding Chapter: All chapters are eligible to submit for Outstanding Chapter to NCDC. Students already selected to attend may represent their chapter for this event

Request to attend 2025-2026 Native Courses here

As We Approach the end of the school year let us focus on the Indigenous Value of Mastery

Here are the Albuquerque team winners in NAISEF on March 29, 2025, at Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma.

Our team of 8 students with 6 project entries did an amazing job presenting their projects! They won 5 First Place Awards and 1 Honorable Mention in their category division, 8 or 9 Special Awards, and 1 Grand Final Award. There were 120 project entries and 138 students competing in this event. So it was impressive that these students managed to take the top places in their category/field.
Jessica Castro (12th Grade) won the Grand Final Award, where she will compete in ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) in Columbus, Ohio, in May. Natavianna Dodge (10th Grade) won a total of 4 major awards.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham proudly signed Senate Bill 163, ensuring that students can wear traditional tribal regalia at school graduation ceremonies and other school events.
This new law honors the cultural heritage of Native students and reaffirms New Mexico's commitment to inclusion, and respect for Indigenous traditions.
We celebrate this important step forward with our tribal communities and thank the students, families, educators, and leaders who made their voices heard.

Indian Ed

2025-26 Indigenous Course Flyer

Next year Indian Education will be housing all of our Courses at Albuquerque High School.

2025 Summer Program Flyer

This year APS IED's summer programming will be hosted by Valley High School. There will be programming all summer long, and is an opportunity for students to get ahead and catch up with the respective classes that we are offering.

Summer Enrichment and Navajo Language Immersion K-8

For all K-8 Students they can now sign up using the flyer to be involved in either the Summer Enrichment or Navajo Language Immersion Program being hosted at Tony Hillerman Middle School.

New Mexico Highlands University Summer Bridge Academy

NMHU is hosting the Indigenous Knowledge Summer Bridge Academy. Which will be a one week long experience for Native Students to get involved with and experience various activities, college life, and build connections.

Chief Manuelito Scholarship 2025-26

NNSFA website where Navajo Students can look more into the application for the Chief Manuelito. Please note that Navajo students are the only ones who can apply for this, and students must complete Navajo Language 1 & 2 and Navajo History and Government in order to receive the scholarship.

In the News

SANTA FE, N.M. -- New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed legislation Monday to create a "turquoise alert" for when Native Americans go missing in the state.

The effort — which had overwhelming support among lawmakers — responds to a troubling number of disappearances and killings in Indian Country.

The "turquoise alert" system — taking its name from the blue-green mineral — will allow law enforcement to quickly share information. It will function much like "amber" and "silver" alerts that highlight the disappearance of children and the elderly. Cellphone alerts will be issued when law enforcement finds evidence of imminent danger in the disappearance of a Native American.

The legislation wasn't just a policy achievement, but a victory for every Native American mother, daughter, sister and aunt who has ever been impacted by violence, said Tiffany Jiron, executive director of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women.

"This bill reflects our deep commitment to ensuring that no Indigenous person is left behind when they go missing," Jirons said in a statement. "For far too long, Native women and girls have been overlooked, their cases ignored or delayed. The Turquoise Alert System is an essential step toward rectifying that injustice and ensuring that our people receive the protection they deserve."

California, Washington and Colorado have similar alert systems, according to the New Mexico Department of Indian Affairs. Arizona lawmakers are considering their own alert system as the brutal death of San Carlos Apache teenager Emily Pike reverberates through Native American communities.

Get Involved: Events & Happenings

- Agricultural Community Engagement Events, Los Padillas Elementary School, Sat April 12, 10 am -12 pm
- NACA Spring Fest, NACA, Sat, April 12, 9am - 4pm
- Brown Bag Series, Mackenzie Johnson & Preston Sanchez, J.D. Fighting for Accountability, Zoom, April 16th, 1 - 2 pm
- UNM Summer Reading Program Schedule of Classes
- Indigenize Your Mind Book Club: A Council of Dolls by Mona Susan Power, San Pedro Library Sat, April 12, 3 - 5pm
- Diné (Navajo) Baby-Toddler Storytime, San Pedro Library, Wed, May 7, 11:15 - 12pm
- Indigenize Your Mind Book Club: Indian Burial Ground by Nick Medina, San Pedro Library, Sat, May 10, 3 - 5pm

Indigenous Poetry

3 Poems and Classroom Activities to Teach Joy Harjo, National Poet Laureate

More Indigenous Poets:

Nora Naranjo-Morse,Tewa, Santa Clara Pueblo

Simon J. Ortiz, Acoma Pueblo

Parsino Carlos Peynetsa, Zuni and Isleta Pueblo tribes

John Trudell, Santee Dakota

Margo Tamez, Lipan Apache, Jumano Apache, and Spanish heritage

Luci Tapahonso, Diné (Navajo)

Ofelia Zepeda, Tohono O'odham

Lesson Plans & Resourcces

- **Exploring Native American Poetry**
- **Celebrating Native American Heritage and Culture: Poetry Out Loud**
- **Native American Heritage Month: Poems for Kids**
- **Native American Poetry and Culture**
- **Indigenous Poets You Should Know**
- **Native Voices: Indigenous American Poetry, Craft and Conversations**

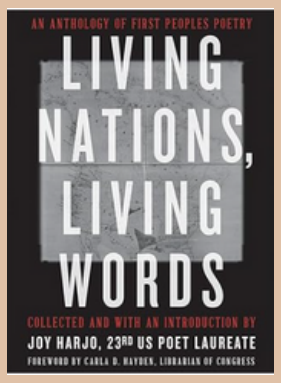
Culturally Responsive Resources

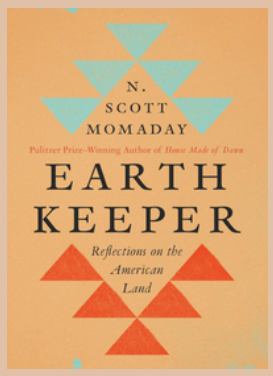
Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

When in doubt check out: American Indians in Children's Literature by Debbie Reese

Read Something New this Month

- We Love You as Much as the Fox Love's It's Tail
- When The Rain Sings: Poems By Young Native Americans
- I'm Finding My Talk
- Majagalee: The Language of the Seasons
- Sometimes I feel Like a River
- Earth Keeper: Reflections on American Land
- Original Fire
- From Sand Creek
- Living Nations, Living Words: An Anthology of First Peoples Poetry
- New Poets of Native Nations
- The Journey Home
- Songs Called Poems
- A History of Kindness
- Words Like Thunder
- Dissolve
- For a Girl Becoming
- I am Elwha
- Sometimes I Feel Like an Oak
- Remember
- Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States: A Graphic Interpretation
- Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples
- Reclaiming Youth at Risk (Native Values/ Circle of Courage)





Internet Resources

- Diné be'iiná Náhiiłna be Agha'diit'ahii (DNA Legal Services)
- · Eve's Fund
- · Project Venture
- · Lakota People's Law Project
- Southwest Books of the Year
- New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award
- American Indian Youth Literature Award
- NM Department of Cultural Affairs - Activity and Coloring Books
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture - Online Exhibits
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture- Online Resources
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture - Coloring Book
- National Museum of the American Indian - Online Exhibits
- National Museum of the American Indian- Online Resources
- AZ Summer Reading Page
- NM Summer Reading Page
- CSLP Official Programming Group
- AZ Presenter's Showcase