

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

"In all the time that Navajo Nation has been doing the state bilingual seal testing, no one from APS has ever passed until (now)," said Shannon Johnson, the APS bilingual coordinator for Navajo Language & Culture and the teacher of the two students who passed the test.

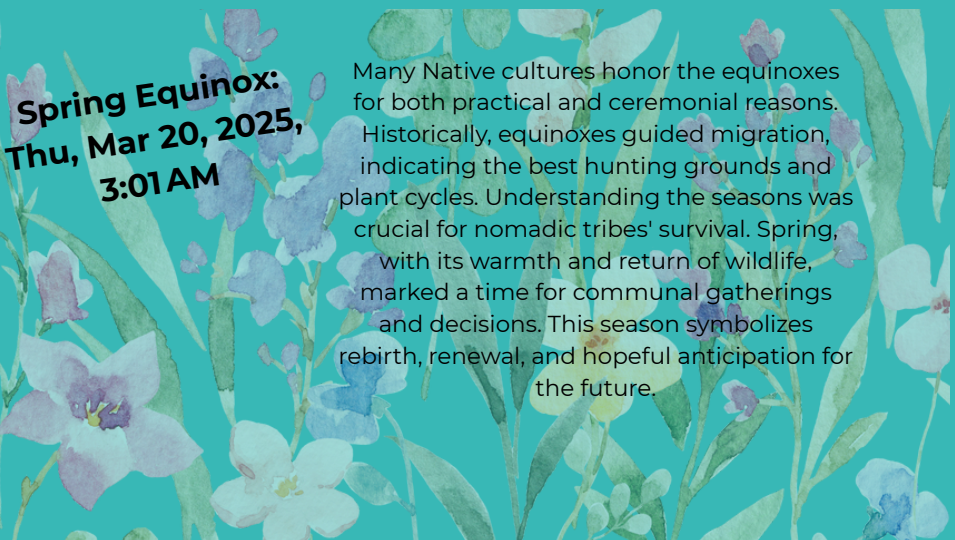
Kaylee Bahe, from Eldorado High School, and Hallie Cornfield, who attends La Cueva, are proud of what they accomplished but stress that their journey is just beginning." [aps.edu](https://www.aps.edu)



[Request to attend 2025-2026 Native Courses here](#)

Consider this during: Women's History Month

In many Indigenous cultures, matriarchal societies are central, with women, especially mothers and grandmothers, holding significant authority in governance, decision-making, spiritual leadership, and cultural preservation. Women are often responsible for land stewardship and passing down ecological knowledge, maintaining a sustainable relationship with nature. Matriarchal structures emphasize kinship through the mother's line and place women in leadership roles, ensuring cultural continuity and community well-being. Decision-making is communal, with elders, particularly grandmothers, providing wisdom that shapes both practical and spiritual life. Despite the disruption of colonialism, Indigenous women continue to play a crucial role in revitalizing and preserving their cultural traditions and governance systems.



Spring Equinox:
Thu, Mar 20, 2025,
3:01 AM

Many Native cultures honor the equinoxes for both practical and ceremonial reasons. Historically, equinoxes guided migration, indicating the best hunting grounds and plant cycles. Understanding the seasons was crucial for nomadic tribes' survival. Spring, with its warmth and return of wildlife, marked a time for communal gatherings and decisions. This season symbolizes rebirth, renewal, and hopeful anticipation for the future.

Advocate & Educate for our Sisters
#MMIW

- [Murdered and Missing Indigenous Relatives New NM Legislation](#)
- [How prejudice affects official search for missing Indigenous women PBS](#)
- [5 Girls on Why They're Proud to Be Native American](#)
- [Native Hope](#)
- [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center](#)
- [Remember Me - Fawn Wood featuring Cindy Jim Wood and R. Carlos Nakai](#)



Celebrate International Women's Workers Day -



Ramona Emerson, a Diné writer and filmmaker from Tohatchi, New Mexico, earned her degree in Media Arts from the University of New Mexico in 1997 and her MFA in Creative Writing (Fiction) from the Institute of American Indian Arts in 2015.

Laurel Goodluck writes picture books that celebrate Native children's cultural experiences and daily lives, empowering them to recognize their unique and powerful perspectives. She is the author of *Forever Cousins* and *Rock Your Mocs*. Raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Laurel has an intertribal heritage, with Mandan and Hidatsa roots from the prairies of North Dakota and Tsimshian ancestry from an Alaskan rainforest. Currently living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with her Navajo husband, she raised two children who are also passionate about storytelling, pursuing careers in journalism and acting.



Debra Anne Haaland is an American politician who served as the 54th U.S. Secretary of the Interior from 2021 to 2025. A member of the Democratic Party, she previously represented New Mexico's 1st congressional district from 2019 to 2021 and chaired the New Mexico Democratic Party from 2015 to 2017. Haaland, a Native American and enrolled member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, was one of the first two Native American women elected to the U.S. Congress.

The Zuni Olla Maidens are a renowned all-female dance troupe from Zuni Pueblo in western New Mexico, famous for their dance, singing, drumming, and balancing pottery on their heads. For over 70 years, the group has been composed of related women, making it a family tradition. This familial bond contributes to their strength and longevity, with each member serving as a steward of their cultural heritage, honoring those who came before them and ensuring the legacy continues for future generations.



Get Involved: Events & Happenings

- [Conference, April 3 & 4, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center](#)
- [Meet Dine' Author, Ramona Emerson, Sat, April 5, 2 - 4pm San Pedro Library:](#)
- [Native Ways of Knowing: Dina Gilio-Whitacker: Understanding Stereotypes of Native Americans, Thurs, March 20 & 27, 3:30 - 5pm](#)
- [UNM Summer Reading Program Schedule of Classes](#)

Indigenous Women: Artists and Activists Webinar Series

[Part One | America Meredith on Mary Golda Ross](#)

[Part Two | Joanne Robertson and Dr. Debbie Reese](#)

[Part Three | Rebecca Trautmann on Jaune Quick-To-See Smith and Shan Goshorn](#)

[Online | California Native American Survival and Resilience During the Mission Period: A Source Investigation](#)



Culturally Responsive Resources

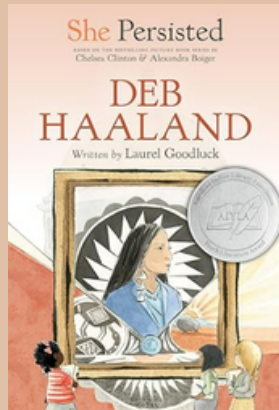
Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

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



Read Something New this Month

- [Native Women Changing Their Worlds](#)
- [She Persisted: Wilma Mankiller](#)
- [She Persisted: Maria Tallchief](#)
- [She Persisted: Deb Haaland](#)
- [Our Knowledge Is Not Primitive: Decolonizing Botanical Anishinaabe Teachings](#)
- [#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women](#)
- [Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich](#)
- [Fatty Legs: A True Story](#)
- [In search of April Raintree](#)
- [Braiding Sweetgrass for Young People](#)
- [Families](#)
- [Wandering Stars](#)
- [Making Space for Indigenous Feminism](#)
- [And Then She Fell](#)
- [Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [The Yazzie Case- Building a Public Education System for our Indigenous Future](#)
- [Our History is the Future](#)
- [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

- [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](#)

In Memoriam

With deep sadness, we announce John David (J.D.) Gates has passed away peacefully at home on February 27th, 2025, surrounded by friends and loved ones. John was born January 2, 1957, in Gallup, New Mexico, and was a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He also had Oklahoma Cherokee heritage through his mother, Erla.

John was a cherished and respected advocate for Indigenous sovereignty, he leaves behind a rich legacy of advocacy that spans internationally. John served as a prosecutor for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and lent his expertise to the Laguna Pueblo as Judge Pro Tem. His passion for education led him to teach Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico from 1997 to 2004, where he significantly contributed to the establishment of a bachelor's degree program in Native American Studies. He also taught cultural studies at Central New Mexico Community College and served with Albuquerque public schools enriching the lives of countless students in Albuquerque.

In 2004, John was honored as a J. William Fulbright Senior Scholar, a prestigious recognition that allowed him to teach courses in federal Indian law and international Indigenous human rights at the University of Bonn in Germany, further extending his impact on global Indigenous Sovereignty. Beyond his legal and academic accomplishments, John was also a talented actor and a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He collaborated with esteemed colleagues, including Adam Sandler, where he performed and negotiated a settlement regarding the portrayal of Native Americans in film, advocating fiercely for accurate and respectful representations. We will miss John's humor, warmth, wisdom, and unwavering love for his family and friends. He leaves a profound legacy that will continue inspiring and uplifting those who follow in his footsteps. His loss will be felt by friends, students, Mr. Grey, his cat and all those whose lives John touched. As we mourn his passing, we celebrate his remarkable contributions and remember his infectious laugh.



Organizations supporting Indigenous education and legal advocacy to be made in John's name:

- Diné be'iiná Náhiilna be Agha'diit'ahii (DNA Legal Services).
- Lakota People's Law Project
- Project Venture
- Eve's Fund