Indigenous Updates- September 2025

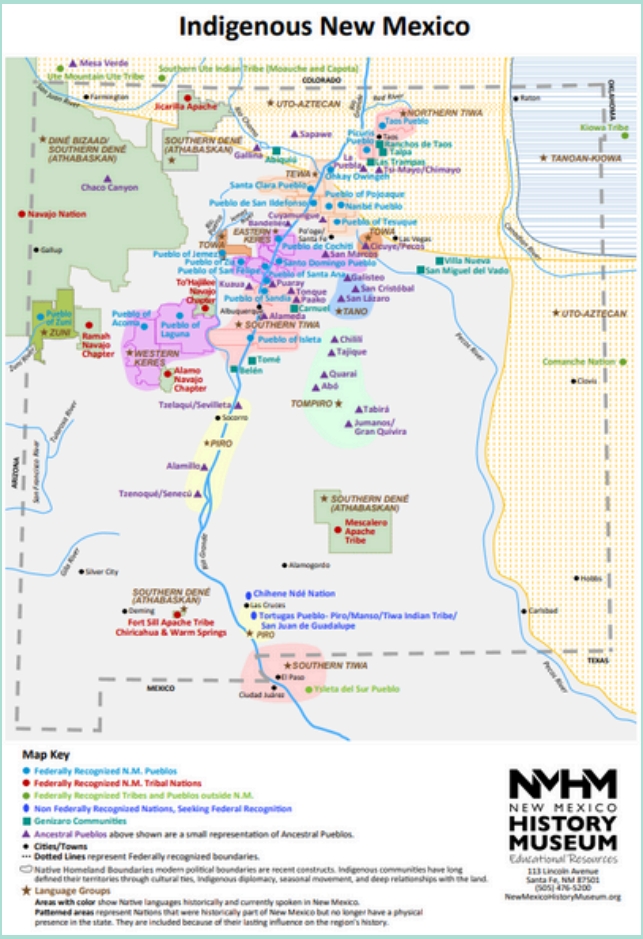
APS-Indian Education Department would like to share with you our monthly messaging flier in building connections and relationships with our Native American students, families, and communities. Taking this time to celebrate and empower your Indigenous students will create harmonious and supportive schools.

Welcoming in a New Season

In New Mexico, Native American communities observe the fall equinox as a time of balance, harvest, gratitude, and connection to nature. While traditions vary by Tribe and Pueblo, common practices include:

- Agricultural traditions: Marking the final harvest with feasts, blessings, and prayers for future fertility.
- Spiritual ceremonies: Honoring the balance of light and dark through rituals and sun-aligned structures.
- Seasonal dances: Performing harvest-related dances, some public and some private.
- Sun watching at Sacred sites: Using natural landmarks and ancient solar alignments to track the equinox.
- Philosophical reflection: Focusing on personal and cosmic balance, and preparing for winter.

Note: These traditions are Sacred and vary by community. Learning more, respectfully requires engagement with Tribal sources or elders.



Department Updates

The Indian Education Department receives funding from Title VI, which requires a completed 506 form for student eligibility and continuation of programs. The Title VI grant funds are used for teacher salaries to provide instruction in: reading and math intervention, Native American Studies, Economics, Government, Leadership, Navajo Government, Navajo Language, and Zuni. The Title VI department with the USDOE requires a student eligibility 506 certification form.

You can help us help our students by encouraging and collecting 506 forms.

Consider This:

- There are 574 federally recognized (Sovereign) Native American tribes in the United States.
- During the 2023–2024 school year, students represented over 6,800 students form 125 tribal nations.
- More information about the Native population in New Mexico can be found here

Get Involved:

- AHS Native American Club PotLuck, Sept 18, 6 pm
- Join the Katisthya Youth Council Trip, Hosted by Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, Sept 19 -21
- UNM Native Curriculum Partnership, Teacher & Educator Workshop, UNM Continuing Ed Building, Sat, Sept 20, 10am - 3pm
- Student Trip to AISES National Conference, Mineapolis - Saint Paul, Oct 1 - 5
- APS IED College, Career & Tribal Resource Fair 2025, Berna Facio, Sept 20, 9am - 12pm
- Indigenous Foods Community Engagement Event, Los Padillas Elementary School, Sept 27, 10am - 12pm
- Be Well NM Native American Insurance Enrolement & Education Event, Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), Sept 6, 10am - 2pm
- Yazzie/ Martinez Case Update & Community Discussion, Native American Community Academy (NACA), Sept 10, 6- 7:30pm
- Indigenous Peoples' Day. Tiguex Park, October 13, 11am- 2pm
- National Indian Youth Council & CNM FREE Production Assistant Training (film), Address available at Registration, October 17 - 18, 8am - 4pm
- 4th Annual Urban Indigenous Education Summit, Berna Facio, Oct 31, 9am - 2pm
- APS IED Tribal Summit, Berna Facio, Oct 6

- Chief Manuelito Scholarship
- AISES Scholarship
- Northern NM College American Indian Scholarships
- Cobell Scholarship
- NMSU Indian Resources

Learn with us:

Indigenous Knowledge Keeper High School Internship Community Engagement Events

For More Information: Shannon Romero
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(Cochiti/Kewa/Navajo/Chicana)

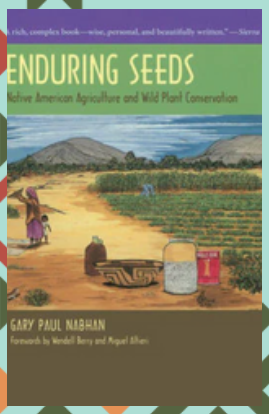
"They buried us, but they didn't know we were seeds."

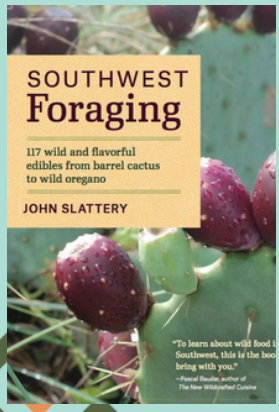
[Pueblo SEEDSS (Sowing Ecological Education for Delivering Sustainable Stewardship)]

[Books on Native Seeds, Planting, Foraging & Traditional Foods]

[Native Seeds Programs]

[Oren R. Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga, To Survive, We Must Transform Our Values]





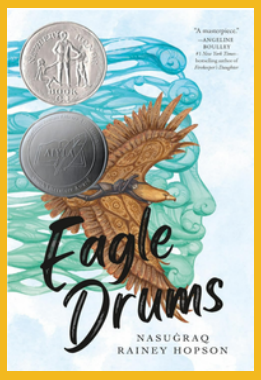
Culturally Responsive Resources

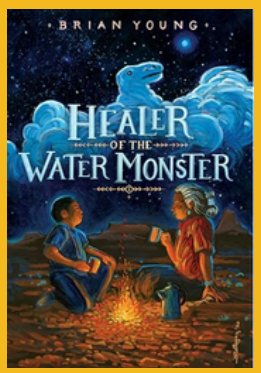
Helpful reflections to consider when selecting Native American lessons or activities.
Be mindful of where and by whom resources have come from. Is it written in past tense?
Is the creator a Native person?
Are othering or stereotypical terms used?
Be critical of sites like TeacherspayTeachers.

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

Indigenize your library

- Firefly Season
- Can You Hear the Plants Speak?
- I Am Indigenous
- Autumn (Petite Poems): A Picture Book
- I Am Osage: How Clarence Tinker Became the First Native American Major General
- Let's Go! / haw êkwa!
- The Hawk Shadow
- Sisters of the Neversea
- In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse
- Pueblo Nations: Eight Centuries of Pueblo Indian History
- Myths and Tales of the Jicarilla Apache Indians
- Diné Perspectives: Revitalizing and Reclaiming Navajo Thought
- Eagle Drums: (Newbery Honor Book)
- Healer of the Water Monster
- Wildnerness in Native American Culture
- Exiled in the Land of the Free: Democracy, Indian Nations & the U.S. Constitution
- An Indigenous Peoples History of the United States
- Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples
- Reclaiming Youth at Risk (Native Values/ Circle of Courage)





"Indigenous literatures hold a profound significance that is deeply rooted in the cultural and historical contexts from which they emerge. These literatures embody the rich traditions, values, and worldviews of Indigenous peoples, serving not only as a medium of artistic expression but also as a crucial vehicle for preserving and transmitting culture. Indigenous writing encompasses a diverse array of forms, from traditional oral storytelling and poetry to contemporary novels and digital media. Each form represents a unique aspect of the Indigenous experience, reflecting the myriad ways in which these communities understand and interact with the world." - Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee)

Resources

- Indigineity Curriculum
- Tips for Teachers: Developing Instructional Materials about American Indians
- Native American Resources NM
- Encyclopedic Resources for Projects on American Indians
- NDN Girls Book Club
- Indigenous Reads Rising
- Thoughts from Polly's Granddaughter
- What if Everything We Know about Sacagawea is Wrong
- "Not" Recommended Books
- APS Indian Education Dept