

Native American Heritage Month Resource Toolkit 2021

Native American Heritage Month began as a week-long celebration in 1986, when President Reagan proclaimed the week of November 23–30, 1986 as “American Indian Week.” Since 1955, every American President has issued annual proclamations designating the month of November as the time to celebrate the culture, accomplishments, and contributions of the people who were the first inhabitants and caretakers of the land we now call home.

Through filmmaking, dance, family traditions, music, poetry, and storytelling, these contributions show the diversity and long history of Indigenous people across the United States. Join the National Women’s History Museum in celebrating the history, culture, and traditions of American Indians and Alaska Natives with this special collection of resources to commemorate this month.

November 1–5

November 1

November is National Native American Heritage Month! Learn about this history of this important month here.

[Click Here](#)

November 2

Learn about activist Amanda Blackhorse, a member of the Navajo Nation, social worker, and mother of two whose fight against the use of Native American names and images by sports teams has led to the recent name change of the Washington Football Team.

[Click Here](#)

November 3

Did you know that National Native American Heritage Month began in 1986 as a week-long celebration known as “American Indian Week?” Learn more about the timeline of National Native American Heritage Month here.

[Click Here](#)

November 4

#KnowHerName: Read about Susette La Flesche Tibbles, an Omaha woman who spent her entire life tirelessly campaigning for Native American rights as a speaker, activist, interpreter, and writer.

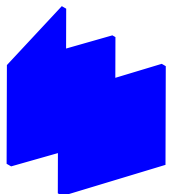
[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Public domain. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.

November 5

Watch the documentary *Kind Hearted Woman Part One*, an unforgettable portrait of a single mother living on North Dakota’s Spirit Lake Reservation, available to stream on *PBS.com* as part of their Native American Heritage Month programming.

[Click Here](#)



National Women's History Museum
Celebrating 25 Years



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November 8–12

November 8

Educators: Utilize primary and secondary accounts to examine and explain the significance of women-led activism in the fight for Native liberation and sovereignty in our 60-minute lesson plan, *Red Power Prevails: The Activism, Spirit, and Resistance of Native American Women*.

[Click Here](#)

November 9

Did you know that Lilian St. Cyr was the first Native American actress to appear in a silent film? #KnowHerName and learn about her work as an advocate promoting Native American culture.

[Click Here](#)

November 10

Join experts from across the Smithsonian for a conversation about *Edson's Flag*, a large wall tapestry created by Marie Watt (Seneca) to honor veterans, including Watt's great-uncle, Edison Plummer, an Air Force veteran who served during World War II.

[Click Here](#)

November 11

#KnowHerName: Read about poet, activist, and musician Joy Harjo, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation who was named the first Native American United States Poet Laureate in 2019.

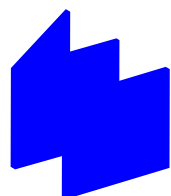
[Click Here](#)

Picture via Wikimedia Commons.

November 12

Don't miss the 2021 Native Cinema Showcase's Future Focused Shorts Program, family-friendly short films that are fun for kids of all ages, available for free on demand from November 12–18, 2021.

[Click Here](#)



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November 15–19

November 15

Did you know that Maria Tallchief was one of the most accomplished dancers of the twentieth century, and was the first Native American woman to hold the rank of prima ballerina? Learn more about her in our online exhibit!

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Maria Tallchief en pointe (1961) by Chicago Tribune.

November 16

#KnowHerName: Learn about lawyer, activist, and former presidential advisor Kimberly Teehee, the first Cherokee Nation delegate in the House of Representatives.

[Click Here](#)

November 17

Watch *Without A Whisper—Konnon: Kwe*, a film by Katsitsionni Fox that uncovers the hidden history of the profound influence Indigenous women had on the beginnings of the women's rights movement in the United States.

[Click Here](#)

November 18

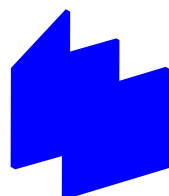
#KnowHerName: Read about Elouise Cobell ("Yellow Bird Woman"), an entrepreneur, advocate, and member of the Blackfoot Nation who fought for government accountability and for Native Americans to have control over their own financial future.

[Click Here](#)

November 19

Join the National Museum of the American Indian for *Youth in Action: Conversations about Our Future—Indigenous Food Sovereignty*. This free webinar, designed for middle and high school students, will explore how young Native foodies are "working to decolonize their diets and restore balance in their bodies and communities."

[Click Here](#)



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November 22–26

November 22

Did you know that Bessie Coleman was the first African American and first Native American woman pilot? #KnowHerName and learn her story.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Bessie Coleman, circa 1924. Public domain. National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

November 23

Educators: Explore our Sacagawea lesson plan! In this lesson, students will learn about Sacagawea and her contributions to the Corps of Discovery and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. While exploring her life and her contributions, students will mind map key details.

[Click Here](#)

November 24

#KnowHerName and look for her on a U.S. quarter beginning in 2022! Learn about the incredible work of Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to be elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation! Read this article and check out the 2017 documentary celebrating her life.

[Click Here](#)

November 25

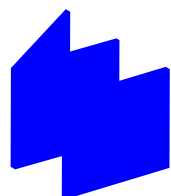
Celebrate Native American Heritage month with the National Register of Historic Places! Explore new listings in the National Register, like the Allegany Council House (Allegany Indian Territories, New York), which served as the primary gathering place for regular meetings of the Seneca Council beginning in 1926. Seneca women played an important leadership role at the Allegany Council House beginning in 1935, when they first petitioned the council for the right to vote.

[Click Here](#)

November 26

Read about Winona LaDuke, a Native American activist, economist, and author who has devoted her life to advocating for Indigenous control of their homelands, natural resources, and cultural practices.

[Click Here](#)



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November 29–30

November 29

#KnowHerName: As the daughter of an English trader and a Native American woman, Mary Musgrove was able to understand many cultures. Her mixed heritage and language skills allowed her to become a negotiator between English and Native American communities. She is most commonly known for playing an important role in the development of Colonial Georgia. She is also known for her business knowledge as a trader and interpreter.

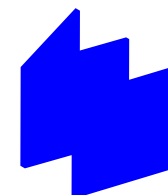
[Click Here](#)

November 30

Did you know that Deb Haaland, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, made history as the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary? #KnowHerName and learn more about this trailblazing woman here.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Michael S. Anaya-Gorman.



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