

Native American Heritage Month Resource Toolkit 2022

Celebrate Native American Heritage Month with this curated collection of resources honoring the contributions and influence of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

This toolkit, curated by the National Women's History Museum, offers a variety of resources highlighting Native American women who have made, and are making, history as advocates, leaders, storytellers, and artists.

Happy Native American Heritage Month!



November 1–4

November 1

November is Native American Heritage Month. Familiarize yourself with the history of National Native American Heritage Month with this short read from the U.S. Senate.

[Click Here](#)

November 2

Language matters and is an important messaging tool when discussing Native American heritage. Use *The Harpers Ferry Center Editorial Style Guide* to understand how to respectfully discuss Native American culture and history with your peers and colleagues.

[Click Here](#)

November 3

Picture Native American women by taking a closer look at this portrait of Yellow Corn, Mitutanka Principal Chief Shehek-Shote's wife, by the French portrait artist Charles B.J.F. de Saint-Memin. What do you see? What do you think? What do you wonder? Consider discussing your observations with others.

[Click Here](#)

November 4

#KnowHerName. Native American heritage activist and pioneering film actor Lilian ("Red Wing") St. Cyr used her voice to advocate for the establishment of a National Indian Day federal holiday to bring attention to Native American welfare. November is now federally designated each year as an observance and celebration of Native American heritage.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Lilian ("Red Wing") St. Cyr, Wikimedia Commons.



National Women's History Museum

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November 7–11

November 7

Educators: “Red Power Prevails: The Activism, Spirit, and Resistance of Native American Women” is a classroom-ready lesson plan that can be used as a 60-minute discussion tool as well. Using leading questions, a film trailer, and social media to generate discussion and calls to action, “Red Power Prevails” details how Native communities resisted European efforts to amass land and power during the late 16th and 17th centuries and beyond.

[Click Here](#)

November 8

Election Day:
#KnowHerName. Over 200 years ago, the U.S. signed a treaty with the Cherokee Nation, granting them representation in Congress. However, this position was never filled until Kimberly Teehee entered the scene. A mentee of Principal Chief Wilma Mankiller, Teehee became the first Cherokee Nation delegate in the House of Representatives in 2019.

[Click Here](#)

November 9

The Nimiipu Tribe consider mothers and grandmothers and their work as equal to that of fathers in the care of children, as their roles serve equal importance in providing sustenance, education, and protection to their families. Learn more about the Nimiipu Tribe’s history and lives today in “Nimiipuu Women Carry the Future on Their Backs” by the National Park Service.

[Click Here](#)

November 10

#KnowHerName. Joy Harjo, the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States, is a member of the Mvskoke Nation and belongs to Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground). In 2019, Harjo became the first Native American United States Poet Laureate in history and is only the second poet to be appointed for three terms. In addition to her many books of poetry, she has written several books for young audiences and released seven award-winning music albums.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Joy Harjo, Wikimedia Commons.

November 11

Explore the Smithsonian’s online exhibit, *Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces*, in commemoration of the National Native American Veterans Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., to learn more about Native American veterans’ military service and motivations in honor of Veterans Day.

[Click Here](#)

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November 14–18

November 14

#KnowHerName. An entrepreneur, advocate, and member of the Blackfoot Nation, Elouise “Yellow Bird Woman” Pepion Cobell fought tirelessly for government accountability and for Native Americans to have control over their own financial future. During her life, she won countless awards, founded the first Native American owned bank, and successfully won a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. Government.

[Click Here](#)

November 15

In October 2022, Nicole Aunapu Mann became the first Native woman to travel to outer space. Mann, a member of the Wailacki of the Round Valley Indian Tribes in Northern California, led NASA’s Crew-5 mission to the International Space Station. Mann took with her “a dreamcatcher that my mother gave me when I was very young.” Learn more about the history of Native scientists in space in this short video from REUTERS.

[Click Here](#)

November 16

In August 2022, Mary Peltola, a Native Alaskan, became the first woman and the first Native member to be elected by the state of Alaska to the United States Congress in a special election to finish the term of the incumbent, who had passed away. Read more about Peltola in this short article and slide show from REUTERS.

[Click Here](#)

November 17

In 2022, the U.S. Mint, in consultation with the National Women’s History Museum and the Smithsonian’s American Women’s History Initiative, honored Wilma Mankiller in a newly minted coin in the American Women Quarters™ program. In 2023, Native Hawaiian Edith Kanaka’ole, Maria Tallchief (Osage Nation), and Bessie Coleman, who was of African American and Native American descent, will be honored.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Maria Tallchief, Wikimedia Commons.

November 18

#KnowHerName. Wilma Mankiller is honored and recognized as the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. She is also the first woman elected as chief of a major Native tribe. She spent her remarkable life fighting for the rights of American Indians.

[Click Here](#)

Native American Heritage Month Resource Toolkit 2022



November 21–25

November 21

#KnowHerName. At the age of 17, Maria Tallchief moved to New York City to pursue her dreams of becoming a dancer, but many of the companies discriminated against her because of her Native American ancestry. Rejection did not stop Tallchief; she continued working towards her goal and eventually became America's first prima ballerina. Learn more in our online exhibit, *Maria Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina*.

[Click Here](#)

November 22

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland is the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet Secretary in a long-overdue appointment to the Department of Interior by President Biden. Secretary Haaland became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a state party after running for Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico in 2014. Read more about Secretary Haaland's groundbreaking career here.

[Click Here](#)

November 23

Salish mothers are renowned for designing ceremonial clothing created from animal hides, pelts, and cloth with intricately beaded regalia, porcupine quills, and shells. These ceremonial robes are given to their daughters for participation in traditional Salish dances, thereby connecting generations of matrilineal relatives to both their artistic and cultural heritage. Learn more in this article from the National Park Service.

[Click Here](#)

November 24

Thanksgiving Day is a time for reflection and mourning rather than celebration for many Indigenous peoples. Discover how Native Americans observe the iconic American holiday in this audio article from *Newsweek*.

[Click Here](#)

November 25

#KnowHerName. Football—a well-established tradition in many American families' fall holiday plans—has been forever altered for the better thanks to the activism of Navajo social worker Amanda Blackhorse, who served as the named plaintiff in the 2006 lawsuit *Blackhorse et. al. v. Pro-Football, Inc.*, and who is one of many Native American activists who deserves credit for the Washington Football Team's recent name change.

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Amanda Blackhorse, Wikimedia Commons.

Native American Heritage Month Resource Toolkit 2022



November 28–30

November 28

#KnowHerName. Protecting sacred grounds: Standing before the Supreme Court, Eliza “Lyda” Burton Conley argued to protect her ancestral burial ground. Considered the Guardian of Heron Indian Cemetery, her appearance made her the third woman, and the first Native American, to argue a case in front of the Supreme Court. For her, this case was personal. Learn more about Conley’s case [here](#).

[Click Here](#)

Photo credit: Eliza “Lyda” Burton Conley, Wikimedia Commons.

November 29

Engage in a team-building exercise in observance of Native American Heritage Month with the National Women’s History Museum’s digital learning resources. “Sacagawea: Mind Mapping Women’s History” is a classroom-ready lesson plan that introduces learners to the life and accomplishments of one of the most recognized names in American women’s history, Sacagawea.

[Click Here](#)

November 30

#KnowHerName. Susette La Flesche Tibbles, an Omaha woman, spent her life tirelessly campaigning for Native American rights as a speaker, activist, interpreter, and writer. Learn her story and be inspired to make positive change every day.

[Click Here](#)



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