



NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

**AUTHENTIC WAYS OF REPRESENTING AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE IN
PREK-12 SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

AFT's 2021 Share My Lesson Virtual Conference

Representation beyond the Supplemental

EXISTENCE	"We are Still Here," Since Time Immemorial, thriving tribal nations, pre-1692: The concept and teaching of civics/ "America" always seems to start with the colonies
RESILIENCY	574 Federally Recognized Tribal Nations with unique cultural practices and native languages
CONTRIBUTIONS	Native veterans, political leaders, business owners, inventors, authors, designers, artists, musicians, athletes
ACTIVISM	Past and present advocacy for land, fishing, hunting, & water rights, American Indian Movement (AIM), (goes beyond Standing Rock)
SYSTEMS OF KNOWLEDGE	Indigenous math & science, character building, sacredness of ceremonies and place, storytelling
CULTURE & LANGUAGE	Language revitalization and practice, dual language instruction, honoring our ways, customs, holidays, ceremonies
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT and HEALING of HISTORICAL TRAUMA	land acknowledgements, discussion of extermination policies, boarding schools , identity reclamation and value
TRUTH TELLING	What really happened to us? (forced removal, termination, relocation, genocide, boarding schools, isolation)
EXPERTISE	Let US tell our story (community guests, literature , media, film, music)

Considerations for Educators

- Check your own biases and understand the space of un-knowing
- Reflect on your own narratives/heritage and family histories
- Practice and teach [land acknowledgements](#)
- Build authentic relationships with (Native) students and families
- Understand the harmful role education has played in Native (and other) histories
 - Learn more about [Boarding Schools](#) and [federal Indian Policy](#)
- Access viable and vetted resources (if in doubt consult a Native organization such as NIEA or local/state Indian Education offices)
- [Incorporate AI/AN literature](#), art, stories, contributions, etc (respectfully)
- Follow leading Native Ed. organizations on social media ([NIEA](#), [IllumiNative](#), [NCAI](#), and many more)

Teaching Responsibly and Respectfully

- Avoid tokenism (beads & feathers or the dreamcatcher syndrome)
- Recognize that some practices, languages, ceremonies, and/or stories are sacred and should not be considered as "interesting topics"
- Be tribally specific vs. Pan-Indian (generalizing all Native people as one)
- Respectfully build relationships with and learn from local tribes and tribal education agencies
- Be aware of implicit superiority and teaching culture as hierarchical
 - Beware of asserting that you are "helping" as it connotes inferiority of others
- Teach Native nations and people as modern and resilient not just a part of the past
- Be sensitive to historical and current traumas for Native students and communities
- Vulnerably express your own lack of knowledge and be open to learning more

AI/AN Instructional Resources

Vetted Resources from NIEA & Partners	https://www.niea.org/learning-at-home-resources
K-12 AI/AN Reading List	Books by Native authors and/or with Native main characters
Various State Indian Ed. for All Curriculum Resources (check your individual state for more resources)	Since Time Immemorial Curriculum links Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Oregon Indian Education Resources Montana Indian Education for All Oklahoma Indian Education resources
	<p>*Many states do not have a localized Office of Indian Education to house these resources. This is advocacy work that is ongoing. If your state does not mandate or house AI/AN instructional resources, contact niea@niea.org for support in advocating for these!</p>
<p>Coming Soon!!! Look for NIEA's resource page on Share My Lesson</p>	



Join us in Omaha, NE!!! October 13-16th NIEA 52nd Annual Convention

- Presentation proposal submission open until April 2nd
- Convention registration opens April 5th
- Hybrid options available!!

<https://www.niea.org/convention-and-trade-show-1>

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