

K-16 Educator Guide for
**Native
American
Month**

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the **Center for Diversity Education at UNC Asheville** has collected resources to support classrooms and learning spaces. Please note that this not a comprehensive list, but a starting point to consider Indigenous perspectives in your content, curriculum, and pedagogy. Though Native American Heritage Month is from November 1-30, it is not the only time Native American and Indigenous perspectives, issues, and knowledge should be highlighted.

diversityed.unca.edu



UNC Asheville "Activating Indigenous Beats" mural,
collaboratively installed in April 2023



Snowbird Cherokee artists install mural in Robbinsville, May 2021;
Photo by Appalachian Mural Trail
Watch here: [The Beloved of Snowbird](#)

Considerations for educators

Take account of ways you've integrated Native American perspectives, culture, and history as an educator in the past. Ask yourself:

- Who is being centered through these activities?
- Are the resources, stories, artists from Native American people or organizations?
- Are there lessons that have "always been done" or are you pushing back with a critical lens on ways Native American perspectives show up in your classroom?
- How do Native American and Indigenous perspectives show up in your personal or professional social media or news feeds?
- How does your K-16 experience influence how you teach Native American perspectives in your classroom today?

NC DPI, Culturally Responsive Instructional Resources for Teaching American Indians

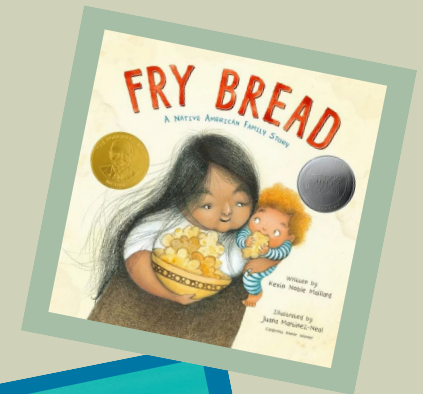
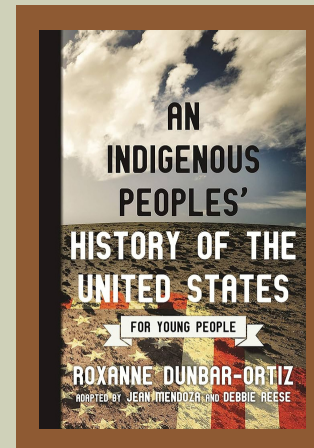


Recommended book lists

National Indian Education Association
Recommended K-12 Book List

Buncombe County Libraries, Native American Heritage Month Book List, 2023

National Education Association, Native American, Alaska Native, and First Nations K-12 Book list



Digital Resources

- **As Long As the Grass Shall Grow:** [A history of Cherokee land cessions and the formation of Buncombe County from the BC Register of Deeds](#)
- **Support our area Museum of the Cherokee People:** <https://mci.org/>
- **National Museum of the American Indian:** [Transforming Teaching and Learning about Native Americans](#)
- **National Indian Education Association:** [Digital Resources for Schools, Teachers, Parents and Students](#)
- **NativeAmericanHeritageMonth.org:** [National Native American Heritage Month resources for all educators](#)
- **Common Sense Education:** [Resources for Native American Heritage Month](#)
- **PBS** [The Beloved of Snowbird](#) (*referenced mural above*) and [Native American Heritage Month collection](#)
- **ISTE:** [15 Resources for Teaching Native American History and Culture](#)
- **University of Denver:** [Native American Pedagogies](#)
- **NEA:** [Resources for Teaching About Indigenous Peoples](#)
- **Facing History and Ourselves:** [18 Teacher Resources on Native American History and Culture](#)



What do I do about Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is taught in schools in a variety of ways. It is important to remember that the Native American and Indigenous people are still living in community, still practicing their culture, and still experiencing the oppression that began hundreds of years ago.

The National Museum of the American Indian has a curated resource dedicated to rethinking Thanksgiving in schools.

Learning for Justice has two articles that discuss careful considerations before planning and teaching lessons about Native Americans and Thanksgiving: “Teaching Thanksgiving in a socially responsible way” and “When trivia isn’t trivial”.



4th grade classroom, where the NC Standard Course of Study in Social Studies focuses on North Carolina history and is a natural fit for exploring land acknowledgments.

What about land acknowledgments?

A land acknowledgment is a formal statement that recognizes the Indigenous peoples and cultures as stewards of the land which we and our schools reside. Having students create a land acknowledgement allows them to connect with the history of their geographical place, but also consider what it means for the current state and future of Indigenous people.

More information on land acknowledgments and native lands:

- [Native Lands Map](#)
- [LandAcknowledgments.org](#)
- [Native Governance Center](#)
- [“Native Lands” article](#) by UNC Asheville Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Director of American Indian & Indigenous Studies, **Dr. Trey Adcock**