

# IMPACT OF NATIVE AMERICANS

**Grade Level:**

**K-5**

**Date:**

**Subject:**

**Social Studies  
and Writing**

**Teacher:**

## CCRS AND TEKS

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- Items influenced by Native Americans (see concept list)
- Collaborative Learning Sheet (Individual)
- Collaborative Learning Sheet (Group)
- Chart Paper or Large piece of construction paper
- Post-it area for students to complete
- Exhibit Tape

## OBJECTIVE (STUDENT FRIENDLY TERMS)

I can learn about the influence that Native Americans have had on the world.

## BACK BACKGROUND INFORMATION TEACHERS

Native Americans have had an incredible influence on the world today. From words and names of cities, many people adopted Native American customs and traditions. Without the knowledge and influence of Native Americans, the world would be very different from what we know of today.

As an example, Native Americans have influenced the structure of the United States government. The idea of a unified, representative government is modeled after the Iroquois Nation, and influenced the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

There are over 2,200 Native American words contained in the English language and 22 of the 50 states have names that originate from Native American languages.

Native Americans have been activists and protectors. For instance, the concept of conservation and protecting the Earth has been a practice held by many Native communities.

There are many products that we use that have Native origins such as cotton and rubber. Over 60% of the world's food is grown via Native American agricultural methods!

## TEACHER PREP BEFORE LESSON

Materials for the hook laid out ahead of time (see list of possible items to include)

Printed sample blurbs (ideas for the blurbs can be found from):

<http://blog.nativepartnership.org/history-of-native-american-day-part-2/>

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2\\_024206.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2_024206.pdf)

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/native-american-contributions/>

<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1525/aa.1957.59.2.02a00020>



# PROCEDURE(S)

# TEACHER GUIDE

## ANTICIPATORY SET (LAUNCH/HOOK)

## PLAN TO DO

Teacher will lay out materials on the table or pulled out of a bag during carpet time (teacher can choose items from the list provided).

Ask students the name of the items and any similarities between the items. (This will help spark discussion between the students.) Tell students that they are similar because they all have Native American origins! If it wasn't for Native American practices, customs, traditions, and languages, we would know about many of these things.

Today, we are going to dig deeper into how Native Americans have influenced the world.

1. In order to learn more about how Native Americans have influenced the world, we are going to work in groups to explore more about their influence. Each group will be responsible for filling out their Native influence worksheet and will share out their findings to the rest of the class so that we can all learn more about it.
2. Teacher will divide the students into groups (the number of groups will be determined by teacher based on how many concepts they would like to study). Each group will be responsible for sharing out the reading the designated reading and will fill out their individual group sheet. Time will vary by grade level. For lower grades, you can have the students complete the sheet by class.
3. Once the students have completed their individual sheet for their designated item, have the students share their learning with the class. (If you would like the students to make it more visible, you can have the students represent their learning via an anchor chart and include important concepts.)
4. When the other groups are sharing out, the students will fill out their group learning sheet for accountability. The younger students can just listen.

## STUDENTS WORK TIME/ INDEPENDENT WORK

## CLOSURE

As an exit ticket/quick assessment, have the students respond to the following question: What do you think is the most important item we have today influenced by Native Americans? Why?

For younger students, have the students draw out their favorite example of Native American influence. They can also use the following sentence stem “Without Native Americans, we wouldn’t have \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ is my favorite because \_\_\_\_\_.”

An example is “Without Native Americans, we wouldn’t have corn. Corn is my favorite because I like eating corn for dinner.”

Our world would be much different without the Native Americans. Words that we use all the time would be completely different, we would have a different form of government, and our world would look very different.

## EXTENSIONS/ DIFFERENTIATION

- **ADAPTATIONS:** For younger students, you can have them study one example of Native American influence each day. For instance, on Monday have the students study words that are Native. On Tuesday, they can study products that come as a result of Native Americans agricultural methods, etc.
- For older students, you can also have the students conduct a presentation method as well- students can research a concept from the list and discuss how it influences us today as well as the history.
- Instead of providing short blurbs for the students, you can also have the students conduct the research on their own to ensure that it is incorporating a research component.
- Another adaptation is having the students conduct a silent jigsaw. All students participate in a designated silent reading time and read their specific section. The students then share the findings with their tables and the students take notes.
- **EXTENSIONS:** For older students, Tolerance.org has created a lesson/quiz activity to test the students’ knowledge of Native American influence on the world. It can be found (<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/native-american-influences-in-us-history-and-culture>)
- Students are also able to research on their own and bring in objects to the classroom that have Native American influence and do a show and tell with the class.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# IMPACT OF NATIVE AMERICANS

**Product/Idea:**

**Facts about the Product/  
Idea**

**How has this influenced the  
world today?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE WORLD

## Product/Idea

Example: Creation of sign language

## What influence did this have in modern times?

The Native Americans used sign language and hand motions to communicate with settlers who came to their land. The idea for modern sign language is based on this.



# **SIGN LANGUAGE**

**Native Americans used hand motions and movements to communicate with settlers.**



**Without this idea, we might not have modern ASL.**



**The American sign language used the idea of non-verbal communication for non-verbal individuals.**

