



Hesci,

On behalf of the Broken Arrow Indian Education program, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you as we embark on the celebration of Native American Heritage Month. This is a significant and cherished time for our community, as it allows us to honor and recognize the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and contributions of Native Americans.

Native American Heritage Month holds great importance for not only our program but also for our entire nation. It provides a platform for raising awareness about the historical struggles, achievements, and ongoing issues faced by Native American communities. By acknowledging and appreciating their diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, we strive to foster understanding, respect, and unity.

During this month-long celebration, we have organized a series of events and activities that aim to educate, entertain, and engage our community members in learning more about Native American culture. Through art exhibitions, storytelling sessions, traditional music and dance performances, and guest lectures, we hope to deepen your knowledge and appreciation for the vibrant tapestry that is Native American heritage.

By participating in these events, you will not only enrich your own understanding but also contribute to the preservation and promotion of our shared cultural legacy. We believe that learning about Native American history, customs, and beliefs can bridge gaps, dispel myths, and foster an inclusive society where everyone feels valued and respected.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Native American Heritage Month to honor the resilience, wisdom, and beauty of Native American cultures. Let us come together as a community, embrace diversity, and build bridges of understanding and friendship.

We are thrilled to have you as part of our journey, and we look forward to sharing this month of celebration and learning with you.

Mvto,

Rich F. Pawpa

Rich F. Pawpa – BA Indian Education Coordinator





Q & A

What is Native American Heritage Month?

November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. The observance also serves as an opportunity to educate Americans about the various Native American tribes that have graced U.S. land while raising awareness about the many challenges Native Americans have faced.

Why is November Native American month?

The month-long holiday is to pay homage to the many contributions Native American people have provided since settlers first arrived stateside on the Mayflower in 1620 and recognize the many lives and tribes that were tragically lost during U.S. advancement.

When was national American Indian Heritage Month created?

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

About National Native American Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” and for three years they adopted such a day. Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day.



It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On December 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

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Links to Native American Resources for NAHM

- <https://sde.ok.gov/tribe-education-resources>
This link provides Oklahoma Indian Education Guides for all 39 State Recognized Tribes.
- <https://www.mcnstep.com/osde-indian-tribe-education-guides>
This digital publication aligns Muscogee knowledge with Oklahoma Social Studies Standards.

Fun Facts

[10 Native American Inventions Commonly Used today](#)

[List of Native American Sportspeople](#)

[15-most-famous-native-americans](#)

**November is National
Native American Heritage
Month**

Use this month to focus on learning about and celebrating indigenous peoples through food, crafts, and culture.

Native Foods and Recipes

We will include resources that you and your family can enjoy together as you celebrate Native culture. Try new recipes and appreciate learning about how our ancestors lived off of the land.

Native Arts and Crafts

Learn about common crafts and artifacts that our ancestors have created and enjoyed for centuries.

**Please take pics or videos of you and your family making these dishes or arts and crafts. Please email them to rbishop@baschools.org

NATIVE HERITAGE 2023



Broken Arrow Indian Education Celebrate Native American Heritage Month!



Native American Recipes



Cooking the Cherokee Way

Navajo Fry Bread

Grape Dumplings

Fried Hominy

Kanuchi

Cherokee Bean Bread

Wild Onion Dinner

Three Sisters Soup & more

Click on the link to view recipes and videos:

[Cooking the Cherokee Way](#)

[Cherokee Bean Bread](#)

[Grape Dumplings](#)

[Navajo Fry Bread](#)

[Fried Hominy](#)

[Local Fry Bread Recipe](#)

[Kanuchi](#)

Beading

Native Americans originally used natural materials for their beads such as shells, turquoise, wood, silver, animal bones and horns. When Europeans started trading with American Indians glass beads became available.

Basket Weaving

Baskets are one of the oldest art forms of American Indians; some have been discovered dating back nearly eight thousand years. The styles, weaving techniques, and materials vary greatly among different tribes and American Indian regions.

Corn Husk Dolls

The art form of making dolls was a symbolic and culturally significant tradition held by many tribes. Since different tribes would often dress them in similar fashion to members of their own tribes, the dolls became an important means of recording Native American life.

Pottery

Pottery served both a functional and decorative purpose. Traditionally, pottery was used for storing such things as food, water, and valuables such as beads.

NATIVE HERITAGE 2023



Learn about Native American Crafts



Beading

Basket Weaving

Corn Husk Dolls

Pottery

Click on the link to view projects and instructions

Beading:

[Beading](#)

Basket Weaving:

[Basket Starts](#)

[Basket Weaving](#)

[Weaving a Round Basket](#)

[Finger Weaving](#)

Pottery:

[Pottery](#)