



## Native American Heritage Should Be Covered Throughout the Year

By Educator Barnes – November 30, 2021

Although today is the last day of Native American Heritage Month, it should not be the last time Native Americans are included in teachers' lesson plans. Native Americans are still here, and it is important to learn about them. Even if teachers don't have Native Americans in their classes, they can at least ensure that the students they have learn about Native Americans especially the ones who are local to the school or the Native peoples who were driven from the state where teachers teach.

Here are a few resources to help families and educators get started.

1. American Indians in Children's Literature was founded by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo. On the organization's webpage, there is a myriad of American Indian literature resources for families and educators.

2. Nick Jr. provided a list of Native American books families could read together. This list shows various aspects of the Native American experience.

3. If you don't know about the National Day of Mourning, read "My grandfather founded the National Day of Mourning to dispel the myth of Thanksgiving. I'm carrying on his legacy."

4. Mia Wenjen is the fabulous mom behind the Pragmatic Mom website where she provides all kinds of book lists and she also has several lists about Native Americans.

5. Michigan released its first Indigenous K-12 resource guide. Although parts of it are focused on Michigan, the guide could give educators ideas of information to seek in their state.

These resources were included in no particular order. I intentionally sought out resources to continue to expand my Native American heritage and history knowledge base. I am committed to keep learning past the last day of November.