



Diversity Equity Inclusion
Forsyth County Schools

National Native American Heritage Month Resources and Social Media Highlights*

November 2020

Overview

In 1990, a resolution was signed by President George H.W. Bush to create “National American Indian Heritage Month” in November, now referred to as Native American Heritage Month. This month celebrates the rich and diverse culture, traditions, and histories to acknowledge the important contributions of Native American people.

To honor the culture correctly, which is correct Native American or American Indian? Native American, American Indian and Indigenous Peoples are all used, even within the community. Many prefer their specific tribal affiliation (Lakota people, Sioux, Cheyenne, etc.) to generalized terms. Some Native Americans prefer one term over the other, so if you’re unsure, just ask. Did you know that the term Native Americans is only used to refer to the Indigenous People of the United States? In Canada, they are called First Nations People. In Mexico and Central America, they use the term pueblos originarios.

Resources

- Native American History Month: <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>
- National Museum of the American Indian: <https://americanindian.si.edu/>
- National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month>
- National Endowment for the Humanities: <https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/american-indian-history-and-heritage>
- National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/americanindians/events.htm>
- Smithsonian: <https://www.si.edu/events/heritagemonth>
- Federal Resources for Teachers: <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/for-teachers/>
- U.S. Census: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2020/aian-month.html>
- Native American Inventions Commonly Used Today
<https://www.history.com/news/native-american-inventions>
- PBS: <https://www.pbs.org/specials/native-american-heritage-month/>

- National Congress of American Indians: <http://www.ncai.org/>
- Scholastic: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/teaching-content/native-american-heritage-0/>
- ADL: <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/native-american-heritage-month>
- Five Native American Sites in Georgia: <https://www.exploregeorgia.org/things-to-do/list/5-native-american-sites-not-to-miss-in-georgia>
- A Story Map of Native American Tribes in Georgia: <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=5db862781f9048cea228762b8b9f11f7>
- Trail of Tears: <https://www.nps.gov/trte/planyourvisit/georgia.htm> and <https://www.history.com/topics/native-american-history/trail-of-tears>
- Etowah Indian Mounds: <https://gastateparks.org/etowahindianmounds>
- Track Rock Gap Archeological Area: <https://theblueridgehighlander.com/union-county-georgia-trackrock-archaeological-site.php>
- Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park: <https://www.nps.gov/ocmu/index.htm>
- Fort Mountain: <https://gastateparks.org/sites/default/files/parks/pdf/fortmountain/FortMountainStateParkHistory.pdf>

Social Media Posts/Noteworthy Historical Figures:

Week 1: (Nov. 2-6)

1. November 1-30 is National #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth! This month we celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Americans with ancestors related to the Indigenous peoples of the Americas. Learn more at <http://forsyth.k12.ga.us/dei> #FCSDEI

2. Election Day

3. **Joy Harjo**, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, is an internationally renowned performer and writer. She is the current Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and the 1st Native American poet to serve in the position. Learn more at <https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/poet-laureate/#:~:text=Librarian%20of%20Congress%20Carla%20Hayden,term%20on%20April%2030%2C%202020> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSDEI #ForsythELA

4. **Charles Curtis** was the first Native American and first person of documented non-European heritage to serve as Vice President (1929). A member of the Kaw Nation, he also served in the Senate and House of Representatives. Learn more at <https://historycollection.com/this-man-was-the-united-states-first-and-only-native-american-vice-president/> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSDEI

5. **Maria Tallchief**, of the Osage Nation, was the first American to dance with the Paris Opera Ballet and was a prima ballerina of the New City Ballet, the first Native American to hold that rank. Learn more at <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/maria-tallchief> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythFineArts

Week 2: (Nov. 9-13)

6. When astronaut **John Herrington** made his voyage to space aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour, he became the first Native American in space. An enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation, Herrington carried its flag and traditional flute with him. Learn more at https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/herrington_john.pdf #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythScience

7. Born on the Omaha Reservation, **Susan La Flesche Picotte** was the first Native American to earn a medical degree in the U.S. Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/people/susan-la-flesche-picotte.htm> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythScience

8. (Veteran's Day) The son of a WWI veteran, **Ira Hayes** from the Gila River Reservation was one of 6 Marines who raised the U.S. flag atop Mount Suribuchi on the island of Iwo Jima to signal the end of Japanese control. This Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph is a symbol of the American victory in World War II. #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythSalute

9. Hailing from the Navajo Nation, **Cory Witherrill** became the first full-blooded Native American to race in the Indy 500. #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythAthletics

10. **Wilma Mankiller** was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. In her two terms, she focused on improving the nation's government, healthcare, and education systems. Learn more at <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/wilma-mankiller> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI

Week 3: (Nov. 16-20)

11. **Allan Houser** (Chiricahua Apache) was a sculptor, painter, and book illustrator. He is one of the most renowned Native American painters and Modernist sculptors of the 20th century. His work is in the collections of prominent museums throughout the world. Learn more at <https://allanhouser.com/> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythFineArts

12. **Lori Piestewa**, of the Hopi Tribe, was the first Native American woman in history to die in combat while serving in the U.S. military and the first woman killed in the Iraq War. Piestewa Peak in Arizona is named in her honor. #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSEI #ForsythSalute

13. Actor and musician **Wes Studi**, who is a member of the Cherokee Nation, made history in 2019 when he became the first ever Native American to receive an Academy Award. Learn more at <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=ST056> .
#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSDEI #ForsythFineArts

14. **Jim Thorpe**, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation, was the first Native American athlete to compete and win a gold medal for the U.S. in the Olympics. The Associated Press named him the “greatest athlete” from the first 50 years of the 20th century, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame inducted him as part of its 1963 inaugural class. Learn more at <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/jim-thorpe-begins-olympic-triathlon> #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSDEI #ForsythAthletics

15. **Alaskan Elizabeth Peratrovich** (Tlingit) was a civil rights activist who worked on behalf of equality for Alaska Native people. In the 1940s, she was credited with advocacy that gained the passage of the territory’s Anti-Discrimination law in the U.S. Learn more at <http://www.neaalaska.org/remembering-elizabeth-peratrovich-alaskas-civil-rights-legacy/>
#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #FCSDEI

Week 4: (Nov. 23-27, Thanksgiving Break)

Week 5: (Nov. 30)

16. To end National #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth, we encourage all to visit Native American sites in Georgia, especially the **Sawnee Mountain Preserve** in Forsyth County. Learn more at <https://www.exploregeorgia.org/cumming/outdoors-nature/trails-tours/sawnee-mountain-preserve> #FCSDEI

*Please note that this is a working list of resources and noteworthy Hispanic Americans. For additions, contact jcaracciolo@forsyth.k12.ga.us. Teachers must thoroughly investigate these resources and align them according to Georgia Standards.