

Grade 5

Unit 8: *Native Americans*



Unit-level Essential Question

What makes Native American cultures unique?

Lessons 1-5

Guiding Question: What can be learned from Native American mythology?

Writing Prompt: What do “The Swift Blue One” and “White Buffalo Calf Woman” reveal about Native Americans’ relationship with nature?

Lessons 6-10

Guiding Question: What impact did the arrival of outsiders—such as explorers, missionaries, settlers, and the U.S. government—have on Native Americans’ way of life?

Writing Prompt: How did pioneers like explorers and settlers treat the land differently than Native Americans?

Lessons 11-15

Guiding Question: What were the implications of the Battle of Little Bighorn?

Writing Prompt: Why does the Battle of the Little Bighorn “stand out” in the history of the conflict between settlers and Native Americans?

Unit 8 Culminating Activity

In this performance activity, you and your partners will act out a Native American myth. You may choose between “Raven Steals the Light,” “The Swift Blue One,” “Thunderbird and Killer Whale,” “White Buffalo Calf Woman,” or another myth you’ve researched that your teacher has approved.