

Cultural Appropriation of Indigenous Cultures

Preparation:

-Spend some time with these resources:

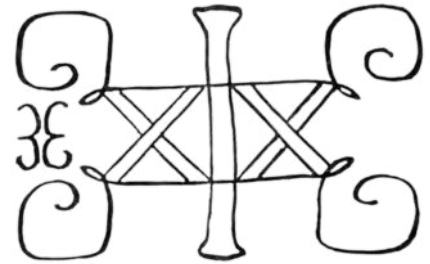
 Cultural Appropriation

-Gather recent examples of cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation

-Learn more about your own culture and ancestry

-Step outside of your comfort zone

-Practice mindfulness



Vocabulary:

cultural appropriation		
cultural appreciation		

Essential Questions:

- How can we tell the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation?
- What are some ways to show cultural appreciation in respectful and meaningful ways?
- How can we spread awareness?

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to define cultural appropriation and explain its negative effects on Indigenous cultures.
- Students will be able to identify examples of cultural appropriation in popular culture, including cars, trucks, and sports teams.
- Students will be able to explain the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation.
- Students will be able to brainstorm ways to show cultural appreciation in respectful and meaningful ways

Materials:

▶ Appreciating Not Appropriating Indigenous Culture

<https://nativegov.org/resources/cultural-appropriation-guide/>

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/why-cultural-appropriation-is-disrespectful>

Cultural appropriation examples

Cultural appreciation examples

Activities:

Activity 1 Defining Appropriation & Appreciation (whole group):

Begin by asking students what they know about Indigenous cultural appropriation. What does the term mean? What are some examples of Indigenous cultural appropriation? What are examples of cultural appreciation?

Some definitions include:


Cultural appropriation is the act of taking or using elements of a culture that is not your own without understanding or respecting the culture's traditions and values. This can be done in a variety of ways, such as wearing traditional clothing from another culture as a costume, using sacred symbols/items as fashion accessories, or profiting from Indigenous culture without giving back to the community.

Cultural appropriation is when someone from the dominant culture (i.e. the most visible and accepted culture in a society) takes aspects of an oppressed culture (one experiencing any form of repeated or prolonged discrimination) without permission. Cultural appropriation can be seen in everything from hair styles, to music, [movies](#), TV, and [sports mascots](#). Sometimes these stolen aspects of culture are so commonplace that you may not even realize that they were appropriated.

What isn't cultural appropriation?

A lot of aspects of culture have been freely exchanged in our society. It's not cultural appropriation for you to cook lasagna even though you don't have Italian ancestors because those food traditions were exchanged fairly by immigrants in generations past. If you're considering posting your recipe on a blog, however, you may want to give credit where credit is due. Similarly, Native people and many immigrants have assimilated into American society as a means of survival. It isn't appropriation if you wear blue jeans or listen to country music, even if those things aren't part of your ancestors' traditions.

Cultural appreciation is the respectful enjoyment and appreciation of another culture. Give students some examples of cultural appreciation, such as learning about Indigenous history and culture, attending Indigenous cultural events, or supporting Indigenous artists.

Watch 5 minute video:  Appreciating Not Appropriating Indigenous Culture

Activity 2 Identifying Examples (whole group):

Show students examples of cultural appropriation in popular culture. Ask students to identify the examples of cultural appropriation and explain why they think they are harmful.

Show students examples of cultural appreciation. Ask students to discuss why these examples are not appropriation.

Activity 3 (small group):

Divide students into small groups and give each group handouts on cultural appropriation.

<https://nativegov.org/resources/cultural-appropriation-guide/>

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/why-cultural-appropriation-is-disrespectful> (high school)

Ask students to read the handouts and discuss the following questions:

- How can we tell the difference between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation?
- Why is cultural appropriation harmful?
- What are some ways to show cultural appreciation in respectful and meaningful ways?

Activity 4 (whole group):

After students have had time to discuss the questions in their groups, bring the class back together for a whole group discussion. Have students share their thoughts on the questions and discuss their next steps.

Evaluate/ Assessment:

Ask students to reflect on what they have learned and how they can apply their knowledge to their own lives. Students can show their understanding by educating others.

Extension Ideas:

Have students educate others through editorials, posters, letters to teams such as the Kansas City football team.

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