

Lesson: *Native Americans*

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Grade Level: Grade 5

Essential Question:

How much do we know about Native Americans?

Project and Purpose:

Students identify Native American customs and elaborate on what they have learned after a read aloud on Native Americans.

Standards and Objectives:

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.1](#)
Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.2](#)
Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Materials:

- Book *Native Americans* from Scholastic (written by Juenesse Gallimard and Raoul Sautai. 1998), specifically the sections called "Stories to Tell," "Trail of Tears," "Keepers of the Earth," and "Three Sisters."
- Chart paper and writing tools
- Paper and writing tools OR computer writing programs

Procedure:

1. **Think/Pair/Share:** Partner students and have them turn and talk about their prior knowledge of Native Americans. Gather as a group and have pairs share their prior knowledge. Teacher charts the information. (**Note:** This can be compiled on a KWL chart under K; add the step of creating the list of what they want to know under W.)
2. After the chart is complete, teacher will read aloud the Scholastic book *Native Americans*, specifically the sections called:
 - **"Stories to Tell"** This section refers to how the Native Americans used symbols as a way of saving and sharing their stories.
 - **"Trail of Tears"** This section refers to the events that took place when land was taken away from tribes in Southeastern United States and they had to relocate farther west.

- **“Keepers of the Earth”** This section refers to how meaningful the Earth was to the Native Americans.
 - **“Three Sisters”** This section refers to the main crops raised by various Native American groups in North America: beans, maize (corn), and squash.
3. After the read aloud, break students into groups to summarize what they have learned from each of the excerpts. Each group will be assigned a specific question to answer:
- Group A:** Was Trail of Tears an appropriate name for this section? Why, why not?
- Group B:** What did the Earth mean to Native Americans? What were the three sisters and why were they important?
- Group C:** Using the Native Symbols, create your own story.
- Group D:** What does the Dreamcatcher mean to Native Americans?

Conclusion:

Groups present their summaries and reflect on what they have learned about Native Americans. (Note: If using the KWL chart, this can be listed in the column L.)

Notes:
