

News Archive

November 2023: [Native American Heritage Month](#) is a time to celebrate and also a time to reflect on current teaching and learning about Native Americans. [The Statement on Teaching & Learning](#), developed in collaboration with the Yolo County California Indian Curriculum and Professional Learning Advisory, requests that Yolo County school districts end the teaching and perpetuation of Native American related misconceptions, stereotypes, inaccuracies, and erasure that cause harm. For more information or resources to address the issues in the document, contact Heather Schlaman.

Learn about the local tribal nation and celebrate Native American Heritage Month with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation as they share some of their culture, language, unique stories and ongoing contributions. Follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) each day this month for features, facts, and fun- all in celebration of Native American heritage, and proudly brought to you by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Pick up a Native American cultural activity bag at any Yolo County library.

Check out these great ideas for teaching about Thanksgiving for elementary teachers, [Rethinking Thanksgiving: A New Thanksgiving Story for 21st Century America](#). The resources are centered around the book, Keepunumuk, which was purchased for every elementary school in DJUSD.

[The Kairos Blanket Exercise Workshop in Santa Rosa](#) on November 29 or 30 (see Events listing) is a unique, participatory history lesson — developed in collaboration with Indigenous Elders, knowledge keepers and educators — that fosters truth, understanding, respect and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.

October 2023: Indigenous People's Day 2023 is celebrated on Monday, October 9, 2023, as a replacement for Columbus Day to recognize the history and ongoing contributions of those who lived on and stewarded the land long before the arrival of Europeans in 1492.

Recommended resources for teaching about Columbus within a historically accurate framework and celebrating Indigenous People's Day in classrooms include:

National Museum of the American Indian - Smithsonian

[Unlearning Columbus Day Myths: Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day](#)

California Indian Education for All

[Indigenous People's Day Teaching Toolkit](#) and other resources for teaching about Indigenous People's Day including Indigenous Peoples' Day Teaching Toolkit.

Interested in learning more about the California Indians local to where we now live? Here are three videos to watch.

- [Reclaiming Agriculture with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation](#) (PBS)
 - Local food production and deep knowledge of plant diversity sustained the Yocha Dehe people of California's Capay Valley for millennia. Spanish colonization and the Gold Rush changed this drastically but the tribe is reclaiming its land. (26 minutes)
- [Storywalk in the Tending and Gathering Garden](#) – Diana Almendariz
 - Narrated visit to the Patwin-Wintun Tending and Gathering Garden at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve led by Native Californian Educator and Culture Bearer Diana Almendariz. (1:13, presentation is 23 minutes followed by discussion)
- [Memories from Her Grandmother's Baskets](#) – Pam Gonzales
 - A beautiful description of basket-making and connections to local plants, animals, people, and the land by Pam Gonzales, local Cultural Practitioner, Educator, and Advocate. (5 minutes)

September 2023: California Native American Day, September 22, 2023, celebrates the distinctive culture of the Native American people indigenous to California and calls attention to their triumphs and struggles that comprise their rich history. California designated the fourth Friday of September in 1998 as California Native American Day to dismantle the misconceptions about California Indians. Educators can participate in this effort by integrating the extensive history of the many tribal groups in California into their lessons and by discontinuing the perpetuation of Native American-related misconceptions, stereotypes, inaccuracies, and erasure that cause harm. This includes postponing the implementation of Native curricula including such topics as Columbus, California Missions, and Thanksgiving, until they can be taught within a historically accurate framework.

Steps to take:

- Watch the recorded workshop "Native American Cultural Understanding for Educators", developed for Yolo County educators by Taylor Pennewell, Redbud Resource Group, working with local California Indian cultural practitioners, scholars, and tribal members. [Watch the recording here.](#)
- Learn more about Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation at <https://yochadehe.gov/>. Click on the "Culture" tab to learn about the government, history, and culture of the tribe.
- Participate in the virtual Native Ways of Knowing Wednesday Webinar series to learn from renowned Native American professors, scholars, and changemakers and get access to free culturally responsive resources. Register for the series at <https://sdcoe.k12oms.org/902-224595>

- Use resources developed by or in collaboration with Native communities available at the California Indian Education for All website, <https://www.caindianeducationforall.com/classroom-resources>.

June 2023 : June 2023: Youth and families celebrated together on the last day of the 2023 [Traditional Ecological Knowledge \(TEK\) Internship](#) on June 4th at Cache Creek Nature Preserve. Five high school students completed the program over five Sunday sessions with Maidu-Wintun Cultural Practitioner Diana Almandariz, who shared the culture, ecology, and life lessons from her local homeland. The youth partnered with UC Davis Keepers of the Flame students to learn cultural burning practices, uses of the native plants, tule boat building, and land stewardship.

May 23, 2023 : May 2023: On May 23, 2023, **NorCal Native American Studies Model Curriculum Project (NASMC)** provided an update for K-12 public schools, including a summary of themes that emerged from the first phase of listening sessions and the next steps for the project. You can view the Zoom recording and slides of the May project update meeting [here](#).

September 23, 2022: Governor Newsom signed [Assembly Bill 1703](#) by Assemblymember Ramos, also known as the California Indian Education Act. The measure encourages local educational agencies and charter schools to form California Indian Education Task Forces in partnership with local tribes to develop curricular materials that highlight the unique history, culture, and government of tribes in their region. YCOE looks forward to continuing to partner with Yocha Dehe to meet the goals of the new legislation.

October 11, 2022: The Yolo County Board of Education approved resolutions in support of [Indigenous Peoples' Day](#) (October 11) and [Native American Heritage Month](#) (November).

February 2022 Native American Studies Model Curriculum (NASMC) Listening Sessions underway. NASMC is defined as lesson plans, primary source documents, planning resources, teaching strategies, and professional development activities to assist educators in teaching about Native American studies. The Humboldt County Office of Education and the San Diego County Office of Education have been selected as lead agencies in the development of the NASMC. Perspectives and voices of California tribal community members, Native American youth, educators, and cultural bearers will lead the development of NASMC. See list of in-person and virtual listening sessions under “Upcoming Events” to the right. [For more information visit Native American Studies Model Curriculum.](#)

March 2022 Native American Education, all year. Connect with National Women’s History and National Nutrition Month in March. Indigenous knowledge doesn’t need to remain confined

to a single month of the year, or to a single subject! There are many ways to include Native-centered content into your daily curricula. Redbud Resource Group has organized a timetable of lesson ideas and resources to help you diversify your classroom content every month of the school year. See [Native American Education, all year.](#)

- Highlight the importance of celebrating women; read Native Hope's 2022 blog post ["Celebrating Native Women."](#)
- This is a great month to implement Redbud's newly updated unit **Healthy Ecosystems Feed Healthy Communities** which has an entire section on Indigenous foods and nutrition.

New Native Ways of Knowing Book List: Decolonizing and Indigenizing Classrooms and Libraries. To help educators and parents choose high-quality Indigenous authored books, the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and California Indian Education (CIEFA) have designed this [Native Ways of Knowing Book List: Decolonizing and Indigenizing Classrooms and Libraries](#). These books have been vetted by Native American scholars, CIEFA, and SDCOE staff. Please consider adding these insightful and vibrant Indigenous authored books to your school, classroom, or home library. Adding these books to your classroom will help teach young readers empathy, courage, resilience, sovereignty, and Native Ways of Knowing. These suggested Indigenous authors and illustrators utilize Indigenous storytelling and convey the breadth of Native cultures and sovereignty.