



# TEACHING NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

A Collection of Resources from  
the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area

It's important to recognize and teach that there is no one singular "Native American History." The histories, experiences, stories, cultures, traditions, celebrations, and languages of Native Americans are diverse from tribe to tribe, nation to nation, and person to person. **The area along the Poudre is the ancestral homeland of the Ute and later the Arapaho and Cheyenne people.** Other tribes such as the Comanche, Apache, and Kiowa have used and moved across this land. We honor and pay our respect to our Indigenous neighbors who protect and preserve these lands and waterways, as they have since time immemorial.

The following collections of resources may be useful in teaching Native American history, especially the stories of the Northern Arapaho and Ute. All resources were developed by or in partnership with Native individuals and/or tribal governments. **You'll find general resources first followed by resources for the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples.**



Picture by: HAFN team member for Harvest of All First Nations

## HARVEST OF ALL FIRST NATIONS

Harvest of All First Nations (HAFN) is a grassroots Native community-based organization that works across Northern Colorado. Their Cultural Education & Environmental Justice Program will work with your school to build a visit from an Indigenous Relations Consultant to bring Traditional Ecological Knowledge about the landscape and environment into your school.

### Website

Resources from the

# NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

The NMAI, part of the Smithsonian, offers incredible resources on teaching the diverse stories and cultures of the Indigenous peoples of the whole Western Hemisphere.

**Here are some select resources:**

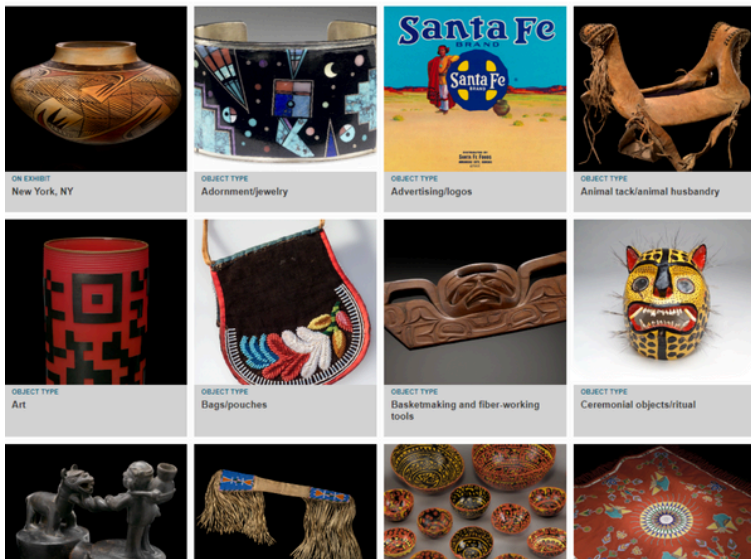
## Native Knowledge 360 Essential Understandings about American Indians & Using the Right Terminology

The NMAI's Essential Understandings build on the ten themes of the National Council for the Social Studies' national curriculum standards and reveal concepts that reflect a multitude of untold stories about American Indians that can deepen and expand your teaching of history, geography, civics, economics, science, engineering, and other subject areas. NMAI also offers a resource page with answers to questions educators frequently ask about Native Americans, such as what terminology to use, Native perspectives on Thanksgiving, understanding reservations and tribal sovereignty, etc.

**Grades K-12**

[View Essential Understandings](#)

[View Educators Answer Guide](#)



## Primary Sources & Museum Objects

NMAI offers digital access to their museum collections so teachers can bring Native-centered primary source material virtually into their classrooms. Browse the collection to find objects, art, documents, and photographs for teaching history.

**Grades 2-12**

[View the Collection](#)

## Lesson Plans & Resources

NMAI offers a wealth of lesson plans and resources for classroom use that span many grades. Currently there are resources for 114 Nations, two are highlighted below.

Grades K-12

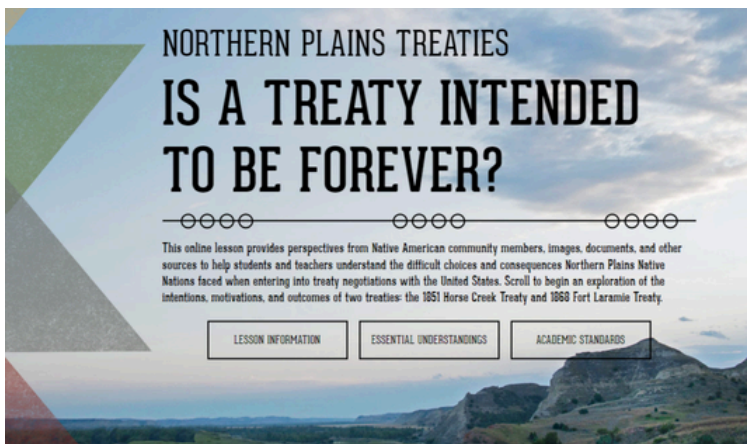
[View Lesson Plans](#)



### **The First Thanksgiving: How Can We Tell A Better Story?**

This lesson plan explores the Thanksgiving story from a Native perspective.

**Grades 3-5**



### **Northern Plains Treaties: Is a Treaty Intended to be Forever?**

This lesson explores the intentions, motivations, and outcomes of two treaties: the 1851 Horse Creek Treaty and 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, both of which occurred only 160 miles from the Poudre and impacted lands that today includes the Cache NHhA.

**Grades 9-12**



### **How Do Native People And Nations Experience Belonging? -- Northern Cheyenne**

This lesson explores how Native Nations of the Northern Plains each have distinct cultures and lifeways, but shared values. The diversity of Native perspectives and history are discussed.



# ARAPAHO, CHEYENNE, & UTE

Below are resources on exploring the stories of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples, whose homelands include the Poudre River.



## Northern Arapaho Elders Videos

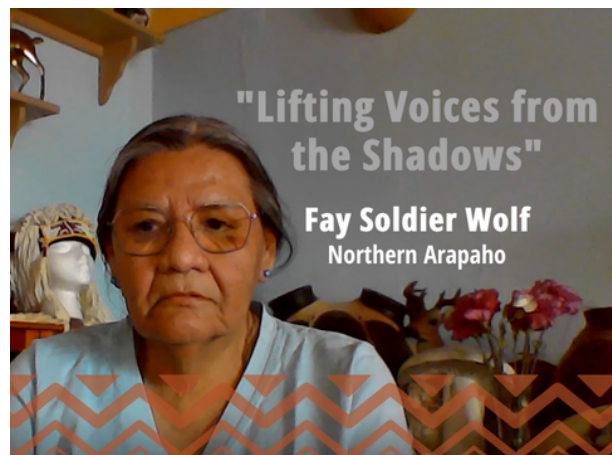
This series of videos was developed by the Cache NHA in partnership with the Northern Arapaho. Three Arapaho elders discussed the importance of the Poudre to the Northern Arapaho people, discussed the significance of water, and shared stories and knowledge.

**Grades 2-12**

## Lifting Voices from the Shadows: Native American Women & the Right to Vote

This oral history video project shares the personal experiences of Native women with voting. Indigenous women did not gain the right to vote in 1920. It was not until 1924 that Native Americans earned U.S. citizenship, though some states continued to deny Native Americans their enfranchisement as late as 1962. Developed by Cache NHA, CSU Native American Cultural Center, and the Northern Arapaho Tribe.

**Grades 6-12**



## Arapaho & Cheyenne Language Videos

Cheyenne and Arapaho Productions creates a wide variety of video resources. They have several playlists to learn words in the Cheyenne and Arapaho languages including counting, day to day phrases, and words for nature and weather. Some of our favorites are linked below:

- [Counting in Arapaho](#)
- [Trail Words in Arapaho](#)
- [Cheyenne words playlist](#)

**Grades K-12**

## Frybread Flats

This show is created by Cheyenne and Arapaho Productions specifically for children. The show features puppets, skits, Cheyenne and Arapaho language, and Native stories and cultural elements. (The show is mostly in English but introduces Cheyenne and Arapaho words and phrases).

**Grades K-5**



## Arapaho Truths Video

The Northern Arapaho of the Wind River Indian Reservation are storytellers. In an effort to pass their culture to the next generation, the Elders tell the children four traditional stories. Using clay animation, shadow puppets, paintings, drawings, and performance, the children make the stories come to life. Developed in partnership with the Northern Arapaho and Wyoming PBS.

**Grades 1-6**

## Who Are The Northern Arapaho People

This lesson plan from WyoHistory explores the history of the Northern Arapaho people and how they came to live at Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. The Lesson Plan is aligned with WY State Standards, but is useful for CO teachers.

See also The Arapaho Arrive: Two Nations on One Reservation.

**Grades 6-12**



## Managing Wild Game on Wind River Reservation

### Tribal Hunting Rights in a Changing West

### Tribal Rights to Wind River Water

These additional lesson plans for high school classrooms explore civil rights and equity in connection with Native issues from 1900-present.

**Grades 9-12**

**WYOHISTORY.ORG**  
A Project of the Wyoming Historical Society





## The Original Coloradans Documentary

From Rocky Mountain PBS, a documentary (30min) on the Ute people, the state's original inhabitants.

**Grades 9-12**

**Clips appropriate for Grades 2-8**



## We Shall Remain the Ute Documentary

From Utah PBS, a documentary (30min) on the Ute people for whom Utah is named.

**Grades 9-12**

**Clips appropriate for Grades 2-8  
(see website)**



## Ute Wisdom & The Creation Story

Larry Cesspooch, a member of the Ute Tribe, shares Ute wisdom, language, the Creation Story, and his thoughts on the Ute people today.

**Grades 6-12**



# Ute STEM Kit:

The Ute STEM Kit is an in-classroom program led by trained facilitators. During this program, 4th grade students will investigate how the Ute people used STEM to survive and thrive in the Rocky Mountains and still use STEM today. Through activities students will work as a class and in smaller teams to test materials and strategies to see how Ute people solved problems in the past and still do today. This program meets CO history, math and science standards. The Ute STEM kit was developed by History Colorado in partnership with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation.

For classes that can't bring the Ute STEM kit in, [this video](#) explores Ute Knowledge & STEM.

**4th Grade!!!**

