



Involving Native American Youth in School Communities

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The History of American Education and Native Americans in the United States

- “Kill the Indian save the man” Capt. Richard H. Pratt
- Boarding School Era approx 1870’s-1930’s
- Forced Assimilation
- Removal from family
- Forced loss of language
- Trauma

Graduation Rates in the United States

2011-2012 From the National Center for Educational Statistics

All Students 80%

Students with Disabilities 61%

Hispanic Students 73%

English Language Learners 59%

American Indian/Alaskan Native 67%

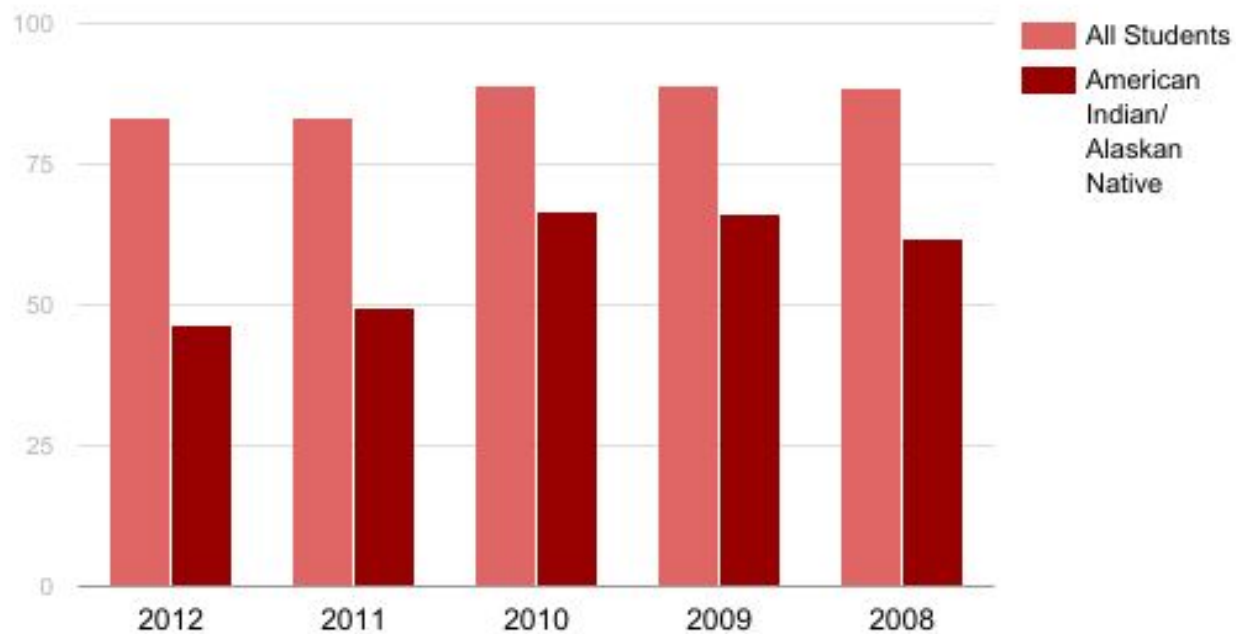
Economically Disadvantaged 72%

Asian/Pacific Islander Students 88%

Black Students 69%

White Students 86%

Graduation Rates for South Dakota Public Schools



Graduation Rates for the Sioux Falls School District 2015-2016

All Students 81.35%

Students with Disabilities 45.39%

Hispanic Students 66.13%

English Language Learners 64.77%

Native American Students 35.62%

Economically Disadvantaged 65.78%

Asian Students 79.45%

Black Students 75.76%

White Students 86.51%

What is the district doing?

History of the Native American Connections Program

- Began in 2002 at Lincoln High School as a liaison style program.
- 2002 Added Washington High School
- 2003 Roosevelt, Axtell and Whittier added
- Currently All High Schools and Middle Schools have an NAC program.
- Recently Lakota Language began being offered.
- 2014 All Elementary Schools have a NAC facilitator

What are the biggest issues in education?

- Over generalized “Native Americans”
 - Which Native American tribe was present at the First Thanksgiving?
 - There are over 552 different federally recognized tribes in the United States.
- Loss of humanization in the form of singular vs. plural
 - Lakota vs. Lakotas Native American Day vs. Native Americans’ Day

Diversity in Children's Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds. Based on the 2015 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp



0.9%
American
Indians/
First Nations

2.4%
Latinx

3.3%
Asian Pacifics/
Asian Pacific
Americans

7.6%
African/
African
Americans

12.5%*
Animals, Trucks, etc.

73.3%**
White

Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen & Molly Beth Griffin
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* About a quarter of the total children's books published in 2015 were picture books, and about half of those depict non-human characters, like animals & trucks.

** The remainder depict white characters.

What are the biggest issues?

- Imagery



Watch Out - Indians!

People You Will Meet

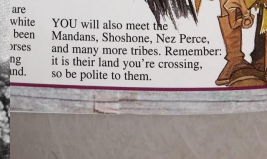
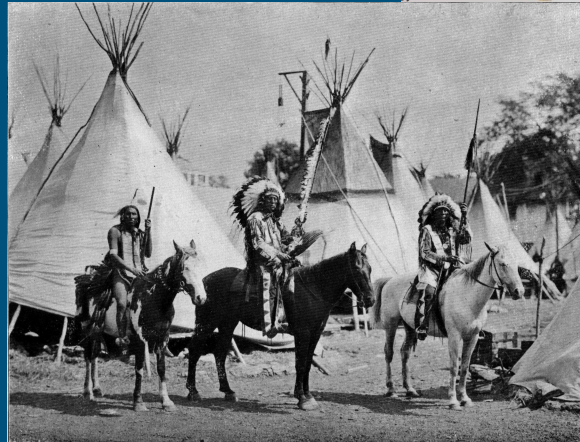
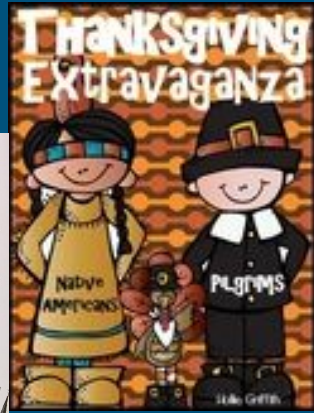
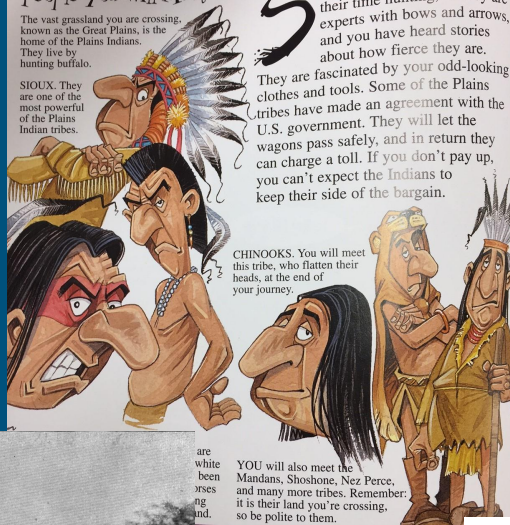
The vast grassland you are crossing, known as the Great Plains, is the home of the Plains Indians. They live by hunting buffalo.

SIHOX. They are one of the most powerful of the Plains Indian tribes.

Sooner or later you will come across Indians. They spend their time hunting, so they are experts with bows and arrows, and you have heard stories about how fierce they are. They are fascinated by your odd-looking clothes and tools. Some of the Plains tribes have made an agreement with the U.S. government. They will let the wagons pass safely, and in return they can charge a toll. If you don't pay up, you can't expect the Indians to keep their side of the bargain.

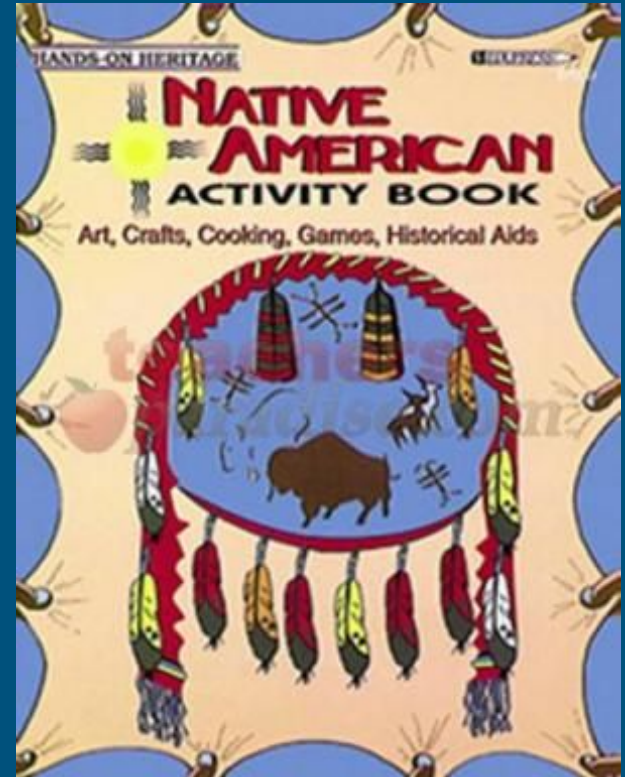
CHINOOKS. You will meet this tribe, who flatten their heads, at the end of your journey.

YOU will also meet the Mandans, Shoshone, Nez Perce, and many more tribes. Remember, it is their land you're crossing, so be polite to them.



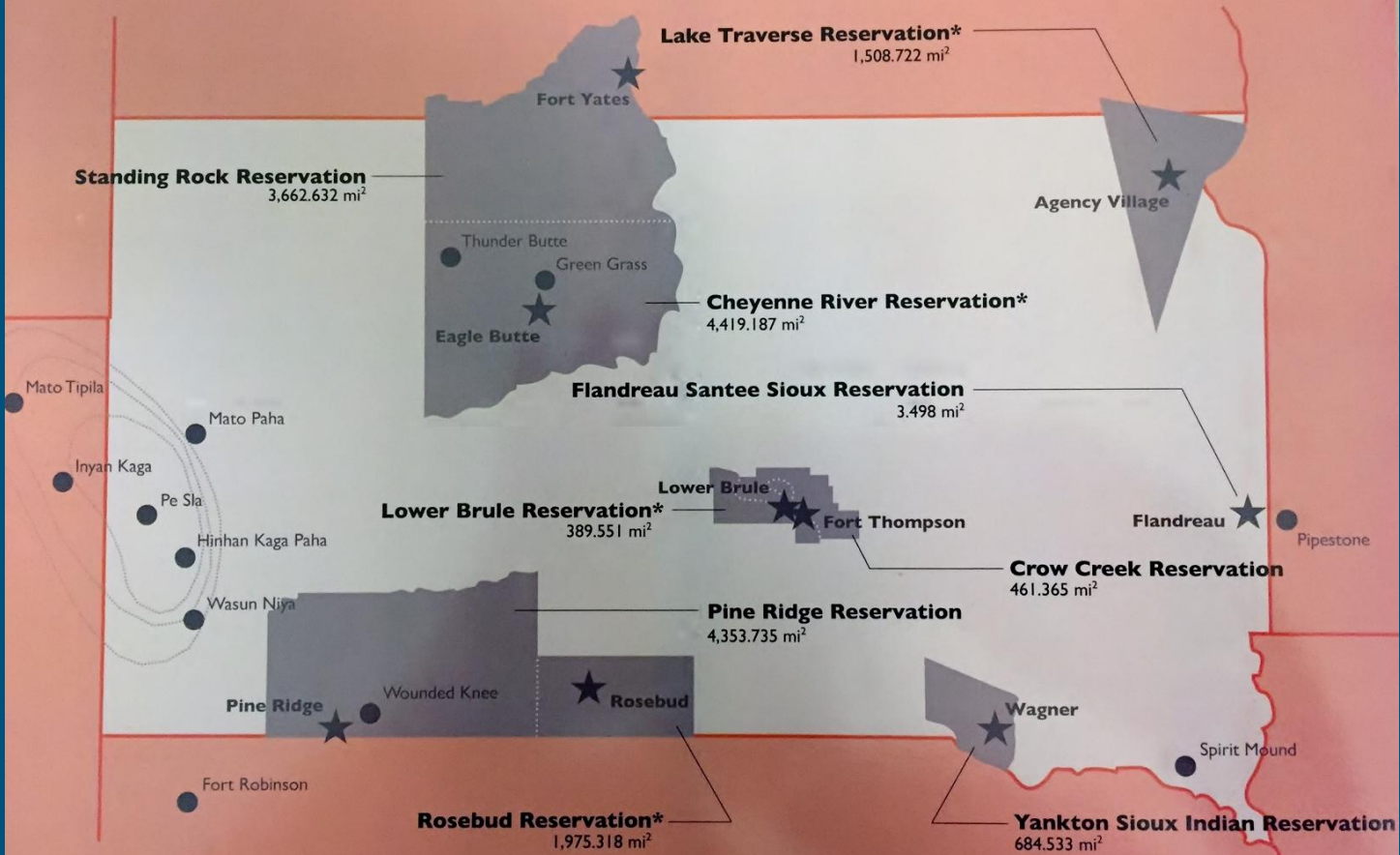
What are the biggest issues?

- Past vs. Present
 - Are Native Americans still alive?
- Lack of Complexity
 - Arts/Crafts
 - “Generic” Native Americans
- Lack of Scholarly Research
 - Inaccurate information
 - Minimal attention



Strategies for Involving Native American Youth:

- **Be respectful of the diversity of knowledge.**
 - Allow students to share what they do know
 - Don't expect students to be the experts
- **Build your own accurate knowledge base.**
 - How many reservations are in South Dakota?



Reservations, Tribes, and Capitals

1. Pine Ridge Reservation- **Oglala Sioux Tribe-Pine Ridge**
2. Cheyenne River Reservation- **Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe -Eagle Butte**
3. Standing Rock Reservation- **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe-Fort Yates**
4. Lake Traverse Reservation- **Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate-Agency Village**
5. Flandreau Santee Sioux Reservation- **Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe -Flandreau**
6. Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation- **Yankton Sioux Tribe-Wagner**
7. Rosebud Reservation- **Rosebud Sioux Tribe-Rosebud**
8. Lower Brule Reservation- **Lower Brule Sioux Tribe-Lower Brule**
9. Crow Creek Reservation- **Crow Creek Sioux Tribe-Fort Thompson**

Names Matter

- What terms should we use?
- Native Americans and American Indians
- Names of specific tribes/people: Cherokees/Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Moving from “Sioux” to “Oceti Sakowin”
- There’s a difference between terms others use and self identifying.

Oceti Sakowin- 7 Council Fires (7 Oyates)

- **Mdewakantonwan (Spirit Lake Village)** **Dakotas**
- **Wahpekute (Leaf Shooters)**
- **Wahpetonwan (Leaf Village)**
- **Sisitonwan (Swamp Village)**
- **Ihanktonwan (End Village)** **Nakotas**
- **Ihanktonwanna (Little End Village)**
- **Titonwan (Plains Village)** **Lakotas**

7 Tetonwan Oyates

Hunkpapa (End of Horn)

Oohenunpa (Two Kettles)

Mniconjou (Plants by the River)

Oglala (Scatter their Own)

Itazipco (Without Bows)

Sihasapa (Blackfeet)

Sicangu (Burnt Thigh)

Strategies for Involving Native American Youth:

- **Relationships, Relationships, Relationships!**
 - Relationships start with connections
 - Connections take seconds
 - Be accepting of diversity in social norms.
 - Avoid assumptions
- **Don't be afraid to ask questions**

Resources

- [The People's History of the United States: 1492-Present](#) by Howard Zinn
- [Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything your American History Textbook got Wrong](#) by James Loewen
- [Lakota Society & Lakota Belief and Ritual](#) by James R. Walker
- Wolakota Project <http://www.wolakotaproject.org>
- Resources for Teachers: Lakota Language: Youtube videos
 - Numbers: https://youtu.be/vz_Lha7_JA
 - Colors: <https://youtu.be/AyqD-JQa5w0>
 - Shapes: <https://youtu.be/uFpgSuSai7I>
- American Indians in Children's Literature
[:https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com](https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com)
- Current Events: <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com>
- CAIRNS- Center for American Indian Research and Study
http://nativecairns.org/CAIRNS/Educational_Resources.html

Native Americans' Day Video



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mtDFXbl4TA>