

# Honoring Native American History & Culture

**Grade Level: 1st-3rd**

**Duration: 45-60 minutes**

## **Standards Alignment:**

- **Social Studies:** Recognize Native American cultures and contributions.
- **Visual Arts:** Use drawing to represent cultural traditions.
- **Language Arts:** Express ideas through art and short descriptions.

## **Learning Objectives**

- Students will learn about different Native American tribes and cultural traditions.
- Students will create artwork inspired by Native American symbols, traditions, or historical figures.
- Students will explain the meaning behind their artwork.

## **Success Criteria**

- ✓ I can name a Native American tribe or historical figure.
  - ✓ I can draw a cultural symbol or tradition.
  - ✓ I can explain what my drawing represents.
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## **Lesson Components**

### **1 Beginning (10-15 min) - Introduction & Discussion**

- Show images and share facts about different **Native American tribes** (e.g., Navajo, Lakota, Cherokee, Iroquois).
- Read a short book or watch a video about Native American traditions (e.g., storytelling, weaving, totem poles, pottery).
- Ask: **“What do you notice about their art and symbols?”**

 **Book Suggestion:** *“Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story”* by Kevin Noble Maillard.

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### **2 Middle (20-25 min) - Drawing on the ChalkWild Backpack**

- Students **choose a Native American symbol, tradition, or figure** to illustrate.
- Possible ideas:
  - **Symbols:** Turtle (wisdom), Feather (freedom), Sun (life)
  - **Traditions:** Dreamcatchers, Pottery, Woven Blankets


- **Figures:** Sacagawea, Sitting Bull, Maria Tallchief (famous Native American ballerina)
- Students **draw their chosen symbol/tradition/figure** on their ChalkWild backpack.
- Older students add a **short fact** about their drawing.

 **Modification:** Provide printouts of Native American symbols as guides for younger students.

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### **3 End (10-15 min) - Reflection & Sharing**

- **Gallery Walk:** Students walk around and observe their classmates' artwork.
- **Pair-Share:** Turn to a partner and say, “**I chose \_\_\_ because...**”
- **Class Discussion:** Ask, “How do Native American traditions still influence us today?”
- Students **erase their backpacks** and reflect on what they learned.

 **Extension:** Take a class photo before erasing and create a digital slideshow of student artwork!

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### **Supports for Diverse Learners**

- ✓ Provide **printed outlines** of Native American symbols for students who need fine motor support.
- ✓ Offer **audio recordings or video clips** for auditory learners.
- ✓ Let students **verbally explain their artwork** if writing is a challenge.