Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

The Sumner-Bonney Lake School District has 200 students with Native American heritage that take part in the districts Native American American Education Program in their school. They meet monthly to learn about Native culture, meet other students who have Native heritage, go on field trips, and have family dinners.

There are 150 more students who have Native heritage but are not signed up for the Native American Program. If you have Native American heritage and would like to take part in the Native American cultural program at your school let us know.

Native American Heritage Month

Did you know?

- THERE ARE 29 DIFFERENT NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN WASHINGTON STATE AND 574 DIFFERENT TRIBES IN THE UNITED STATES

- THE PUYALLUP TRIBE IS THE CLOSEST TRIBE TO OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

- BEING IN FIFE AND TACOMA, THE PUYALLUP TRIBE IS THE MOST URBAN RESERVATION IN THE UNITED STATES

- **FIVE LARGEST TRIBES IN THE UNITED STATES**

* CHEROKEE	1,500,000
* NAVAJO	423,412
* BLACKFEET	297,899
* CHOCTAW	255,557
* CHIPPEWA	130,000
* SIOUX (OR LAKOTA)	126,571

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

NOT ALL INDIANS:

- Lived in tepees
- Spoke the same language
- Wore the same clothes
- Ate the same food
- Rode horses
- Wore moccasins

All of these ways of life depended on what region you lived in.

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 7 different tribal regions – all with their own history, culture, and various languages

- NW Coast
- Plateau
- Great Plains
- Sub-Arctic
- Eastern Woodlands
- Southwest
- California Basin
- Southeast

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

- There were over 400 **American Indian Boarding Schools** across the United States between 1880 and 1960, created by the federal government.

- The schools were for children (many forcibly taken and forced to go) as young as 5 up to age 18 and were designed to wipe away their language and culture and to have them speak only English and be more like the European settlers who now called America home.

- Students were forced to cut their hair, wear a uniform or dress, and if they had a traditional name from their tribe, they had to change it to an English name

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

WE ARE STILL HERE?

As crazy as it may sound - some people don't know Native Americans still exist. Many think a Native person has to have tan skin and long black hair.

The fact is Native people in 2023 can look like like any student. There is no one way a Native person looks.

Some have two Native American parents; some have one Native and one non-Native parent. Others have multi-ethnic parents with one ethnicity being Native. So please don't say "You Don't Look Native!" to a person who says they have Native heritage.

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

The name of the treaty between the United States and the surrounding tribes of this area was called the **Medicine Creek Treaty**.

The treaty was signed in 1854 and granted over 2.2 million acres of land to the United States government.

In exchange, the tribes who signed the treaty agreed to move onto 3 smaller pieces of land reserved for them. The treaty also contained an agreement that said tribes would be able to fish and hunt in their traditional places, but unfortunately those rights were not upheld until 120 years later.

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

- A **Reservation** is a section of land the U.S. government drew up and forced tribes live on in the 1800s.
- Tribes signed treaties (against their will) giving up millions of acres of land in exchange for being able to keep certain rights and traditions.
- Today **over 70%** of Native people live off reservations.

Native American Heritage Month

Did you know?

Native American tribes are SOVEREIGN NATIONS, meaning they govern and make laws for their own reservation boundaries.

(Example: Casinos with slot machines are legal on tribal land and illegal in the state.)

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

Native Americans were not granted United States citizenship until 1924 under **the Indian Citizenship Act**. Though this Act gave them the right to vote it took another 40 years for all 50 states to allow Native people to vote in United State's elections.

Native American Heritage Month

DID YOU KNOW?

A group of Navajo men saved thousands of lives during WWII and helped the U.S. win the war. They were known as **Code Talkers**

- During the war, the Japanese could often figure out the code words the U.S. would use to communicate when they used their radios (which the Japanese could also hear)
- The military created a plan to use the Navajo language as code words spoken
- There would be one Navajo soldier in battle who would communicate information back to a Navajo solider at base camp or on a ship who would translate the information to his superiors
- The Japanese were never able to break the code and the program was top secret for over 40 years. Code Talkers couldn't even tell their family back home!