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Why it's Right that 'Columbus Day' is 'Indigenous People's Day'



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction

Like many Americans, I have been taught that Christopher Columbus was a hero. I learned about him in social studies, and Columbus' story has been told to me every October 14. But up until now, I did not know that there is more to the story of Christopher Columbus. So, this is why we should call October 14 Indigenous Peoples Day, not Columbus Day.

What Christopher Columbus did to Native Americans

Here is a summary/timeline of Christopher Columbus' voyages to North America and how they impacted the native people:

1492: Columbus lands in the Caribbean for the first time. During the voyage, he writes "They [the Native Americans] should be good servants" in his journal.

1493: Columbus starts his 2nd voyage to North America so he can get slaves and gold. He and other Europeans bring sicknesses such as smallpox, scarlet fever, and measles to the Natives that were previously unknown to them. It is guessed that tens of thousands perish in Puerto Rico because of the diseases.

Taino Natives were killed, injured and enslaved in modern-day Dominican Republic and Haiti by Columbus and other Spanish colonists.

1495: Arawak Natives are stuffed into 4 ships by Columbus and his men so they can be sold as slaves. During the trip back to Spain, around 200 out of 550 Natives die. Also, Columbus required that all natives who are 14 or older collect an impossible amount of gold each month in Haiti. When they inevitably didn't have enough gold, Columbus tortured them and had their hands cut off.

Bartolome de las Casas, a witness to this who accompanied Columbus, wrote "I saw here cruelty on a scale no living being has ever seen or expects to see" and "[the Spanish] thought nothing of knifing Indians by tens and twenties and of cutting slices off them to test the sharpness of their blades."

1500+: The Arawak try to fight the Spanish but were captured. After being captured, they were hanged or burned. Half of the 250,000 Natives in Haiti were dead in two years.

Also, Columbus and his men are reported to have assaulted Native women and forced Christianity onto the Natives. Columbus Day is celebrated a lot in the U.S., which doesn't make sense because Columbus didn't even get to the U.S.; he went to islands in the Caribbean.

Conclusion

In conclusion, according to historical sources, Christopher Columbus committed several horrible crimes such as assault, torture, forcing of religion, and murder.

Many Italian Americans celebrate their heritage on Columbus Day, so maybe we should have a holiday called Italian Heritage Day for the contributions the Italian people have made to life in the United States.

I actually think it should be two separate holidays: a day for Italian heritage and a day dedicated to Indigenous people.

I am glad Columbus Day has been renamed Indigenous Peoples Day.

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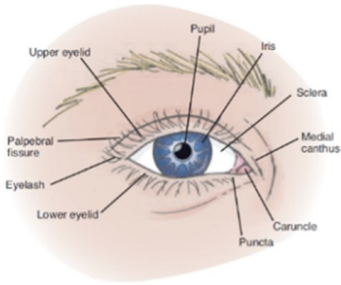


Discover the Secret Behind Eye Color



By Laurel Knapp
Tusker Tribune Staff

Parts of the Eye



MELENIN: Eye color is determined by melanin. Melanin is found in your skin, hair and eyes, and the more melanin in that feature, the darker it is. Your genetics and sun exposure can affect how much melanin you have. Melanin absorbs harmful ultraviolet rays from the

sun, and gives pigmentation to your features such as skin, hair, and eyes.

There are three types of melanin: Eumelanin, Pheomelanin, and Neuromelanin. Eumelanin comes in two colors: brown and black, and when combined in a certain way that makes a color. Pheomelanin controls the color of your lips or other pinkish features. Neuromelanin controls the color of your neurons.

HETEROCHROMA: Heterochromia is when someone has different colored eyes. There are three types of heterochromia: complete heterochromia, sectorial or partial heterochromia, and central heterochromia. Complete heterochromia – also called heterochromia iridium – is when someone has one eye that is one color and another

eye that is a different color. Sectorial or partial heterochromia – also called heterochromia iridis – is when a different area of the iris is a different color than the rest of the iris. Central heterochromia is when an iris has an inner ring that is a different color than the rest of the iris.



Eye Color Fun Facts

Percentages In the U.S.: According to Healthline.com, 45% of the American population has brown eyes, 27% have blue eyes, 18% have hazel eyes, 9% have green eyes and 1% have other eye colors. Over half the population worldwide have brown eyes.

Can Your Eye Color Change? In the first

year of your life, your eyes may change color a little because you are an infant and have not produced all your melanin yet. Otherwise, your eye color most likely will not change naturally, but if it does, you should tell your doctor to make sure it is not because of an eye disease.

Can You Have a Different Eye Color Than Your Parents? Yes, you can have a different eye color than your parents. This is because your eye color is determined by many genes and varied factors such as the eye color of your grandparents or another direct relative.



The Blue Eyed Relative:

It was believed by many experts that thousands of years ago, all humans had brown eyes until a genetic mutation occurred in northern Europe. This person with the genetic mutation is believed to be the relative to all blue-eyed humans today.

Unique In Every Way:

Think about your eye color, your exact hue. Now what if I told you that no other human in the world has that same color?

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Celebrate Hispanic Culture in September-October



By Gemma Krissoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

Introduction

Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to learn about important Hispanic people in history and celebrate Hispanic cultures. The first day of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15, is especially important because it is Independence Day for El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. Mexico's Independence Day is on September 16. Chile's Independence Day is on the 18th, but it lasts for a week. Now, let's learn about impactful Hispanic people.

Martine Gutierrez



The art of Martine Gutierrez usually resembles mass media, like one of her works, Indigenous Woman, a magazine with 124 pages. The magazine had fashion, fake ads, portraits and more. To make the magazine, Gutierrez had to be a photographer, model, makeup artist, designer, stylist and writer.

Ellen Ochoa

Ellen Ochoa was the 1st Hispanic director and 2nd female director of the Johnson Space Center. In 1990, Ochoa was chosen to be an astronaut by Johnson Space Center and became the 1st Hispanic woman to go to space.

In 1990, Ochoa was chosen to be an astronaut by Johnson Space Center. Ochoa has gotten many awards, including NASA's highest reward, the



Distinguished Service Medal.

Dolores Huerta



Dolores Huerta is a Chicano rights and labor activist. She has fought for safer working conditions and healthcare benefits for farmers and has led boycotts and strikes. She has also worked to have more women and Latinos in the political office. In 1998, Huerta was given the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award and had received many other awards.

Sonia Sotomayor

Sonia Sotomayor was born in New York City in 1954. In 1976, she received a B.A. from Princeton University. She got a J.D. from Yale Law School in 1979. From 1992-1998, she was a part of the U.S. District Court.

From 1998-2009, she was a part of the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. In 2009, she became an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.



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Animals Enrich Our Lives



By Gianna Azzinari
Tusker Tribune Staff

Animals are very special creatures. Some have a mindset just like humans and some don't.

Every animal is different, just like every person is different. Some people need animals to help them. For example, a lot of people have therapy dogs, cats, rabbits, birds and much more. They can also have service animals. These special creatures can help anyone if they feel lonely, sad, stressed, or if they just need a friend. There may be a time where you're just having a bad day and need someone to cheer you up.

A pet would be really helpful in this situation. I know this because I've been in love with animals from as early as I can remember, and I know



lots about them. In 2022, my family adopted a cat. Since I had a cat before, I knew how to take care of one. If I'm struggling in school or having a bad day, knowing my pet will be at the door waiting for me always makes me feel more excited and happier.

Animals don't only have an impact on us, we also have an impact on them. Say you decide to adopt a dog, and you end up going to a shelter to find one right for you. Once you find that special one that matches your personality, you are not only helping yourself, but you are also helping that dog by taking it to a good home where it will be safe and loved.

This is a reason why our pets love us. Whenever you take home a new animal, you could possibly be saving a life and not even knowing it. Every person has their own animal waiting to meet them; you just have to find yours.

Unity Day Turns SMS Orange



**By Allison Cardillo
Tusker Tribune Staff**

On the third Wednesday of October, we wear orange to support National Bullying Prevention Month.

Unity Day's message is for society to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent bullying. Everyone, such as students, parents, educators, businesses and the community, needs to come together to spread the message that bullying is not acceptable. Everyone deserves to feel safe at school, online And in a community. Orange is the color to wear because it is associated with the month of October and the autumn season. It is also a color that is associated with being safe and visible. The color is warm and inviting.



PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center started Unity Day because of bullying that keeps increasing. This day is a way to make people aware of and promote kindness and inclusion to prevent bullying.

Regardless of background, every person should feel equal and belonging in of nation which is very diverse. Students can make a pledge against bullying, but also think about what you would do if you witnessed someone being bullied, listening to their story, and thinking about the negative effects that bullying has on students.

It was great to see so many people at SMS spreading the word and wearing orange on October 18 to show their support with people who experience bullying. They are not alone.

The History of 'Duck Duck Goose'



**By Natalie Chery
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Before reading this, you probably hadn't thought about the popular children's game called "Duck Duck Goose." I'm guessing that by now, you are curious, so here is the history behind it!

Let's start off by going over the rules of the game:

- 1) pick a runner and then sit in a circle.
- 2) The runner will then walk around the circle tapping on everyone's head while saying "duck" for each tap.
- 3) Eventually, the runner will tap on someone's head and say "goose"
- 4) If you are tapped as "goose", you must chase the runner around the circle. As for the runner,



their goal is to run around the circle and sit in your spot before you tag them.

5) If the runner gets tagged, they must sit in the middle of the circle, also known as "the pond".

6) If the runner manages to get into the goose's spot, then the goose must sit in the pond.

Now I'll tell you how it was introduced to the United States of America. It started with Swedish people who immigrated to North America. Because they

were from a country that was located far away from America, they had bunches of different traditions, one being a kid's game called "Duck Duck Goose."

From this information, you can come to an understanding that other kids started to catch on and play the game themselves, making it a fun and repetitive popular game across America.

What's The Most Popular Candy for Halloween?



**By Elowyn Dawson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

"Trick or treat!"

We have all said that on Halloween, hoping for some candy. Everyone has different taste. Some people like Hershey bars and others like Sour Patch Kids, but you may wonder what is the most popular candy in America?

As you probably know, there are hundreds of different brands and kinds of candy. Have you ever gone to Target or Party City and there were selling a lot of different Halloween candy? they do that in hopes of people wanting a lot of candy? I mean, what's better than biting into a chocolate bar? But now it's time for what we have all been waiting for: what is the most popular Halloween



candy in America? This is based on a poll people took. So here are the top ten popular Halloween candies in America.

10. Skittles
9. Sour Patch kids
8. Milky way
7. Hersheys milk chocolate
6. Kit Kat
5. Twix
4. Peanut M&Ms
3. Snickers
2. M&Ms

And now here is the number one Halloween candy in America: **Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.**

There are so many other great candies that sadly didn't make it on this list, but this Halloween, look for Reese's Peanut Butter cup—the number 1 Halloween candy in America.

Spirit Week is In TWO WEEKS!!



**By Caitlin Godwin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

For all those people who are confused about Spirit Week, this is the article for you. **10/28 (Monday) is sports day.** You could wear your team colors or even a jersey you have. For example, if you play on a sports team, you could wear your team's jersey.

10/29 (Tuesday) is Tropical Tuesday. Some ideas on what to wear could be leis, tropical shirts, or any other tropical item you think would complete the look.

10/30 (Wednesday) is Rhyme Without a Reason Day. I am guessing most of you do not



know what it means. Well, it means to rhyme your outfit with a partner even if it doesn't make sense. For example, one of you could dress up as dog and the other person as a frog.

10/31 (Thursday) is Costume Day. You can wear your costume to school. While you can wear almost whatever you want, don't wear anything that covers your face or anything that is a distraction. Then you'll be fine.

11/1 (Friday) is PJ Day. You dress up in your most comfortable pajamas. You can even go matching with your friend.

I hope that this helps you to understand what the themes of spirit week are. I also hope you have some ideas of what you will do for each day.

The Northern Lights Are Truly Impressive



**By Caitlin Goodwin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you heard of the Northern Lights that occurred on October 10th? Well, I have and by the end of this article you will be an expert on the Northern Lights.

The Northern lights occurred because of a geomagnetic storm. A geomagnetic storm is a major disturbance of earth's magnetosphere. The Northern lights were visible in Westchester County, but in places



like New York City, the lights were not visible due to light pollution.

Experts say that the best place to see the lights would be a flat area or a place with a clear view of the horizon. While the Northern Lights were unbelievably beautiful, it was also unbelievably cold. I had to whip out my winter jacket to see them.

As cold as it was it was worth it to see the beautiful pink sky lighting up outside my bedroom window. So, I have 1 question for you. Are you an expert on the Northern Lights?

Why Do Stores Put Out Holiday Decorations So Early?



**By Elowyn Dawson
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Imagine this: you walk into Target on a hot July day right in the middle of summer.

What do you see? Back to School stuff ALREADY!?

You may have noticed stores do this a lot. Like sometimes in August, they bring out the Halloween decorations. By October, the Christmas decorations might be up! Crazy right? Why do stores do this? Read some more and find out.

Fast forward to September: you're already back to school, but oh no, what do you see? Halloween decorations! But how?! School just started!!! This really drives you nuts, so you looked into it



and here's what you found—everyone loves holidays like Christmas or Halloween and people are usually sad when they're over. Stores want to make you think that you should already be starting your shopping before the business of the holidays starts.

When you purchase a Halloween/Christmas decoration, it emotionally connects with the shoppers and gets them excited for the holiday, even if it's far away. Because like I said before, everyone loves holidays.

So next time you go to Target or CVS, or some other store, be on the lookout for holiday decorations but remember be smart about when you buy.