

● ▶▶▶ *Native American Traditions*



Native Americans have many honored traditions that can be as diverse as the tribes themselves. Because of resettlement and other policies forced on them by the US government, some tribes have moved from their original lands and away from their old traditions. Luckily, a resurgence of interest in maintaining cultural traditions is occurring in many tribes, and much of this information is available online.

If this activity is integrated with a concurrent classroom study, students will expand their store of background knowledge. By connecting the insights about the elements of tradition and the cultural messages conveyed, students will gain a better understanding of the values that Native Americans hold dear.

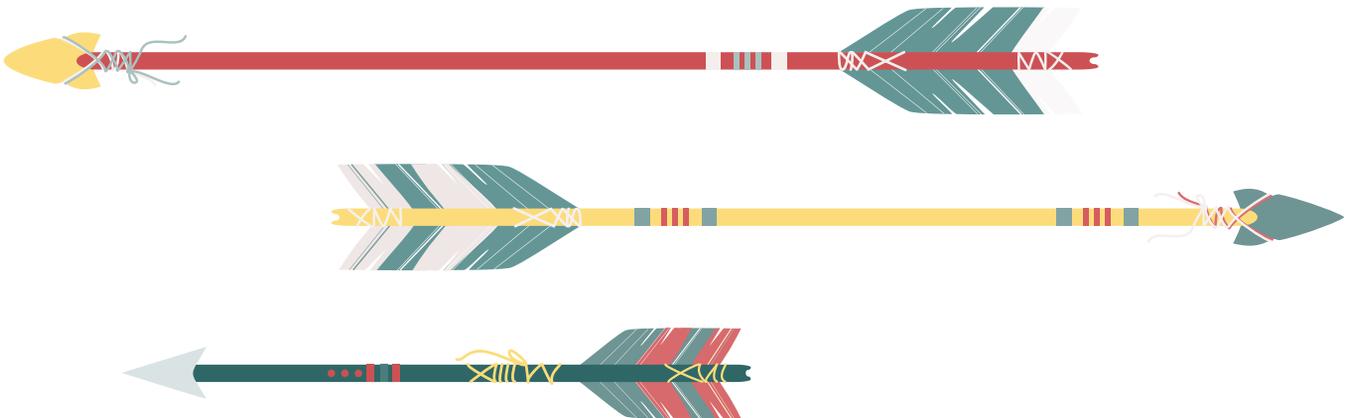
Give students copies of the Native American Traditions Chart ([that follows](#)), which includes a list of research categories. Include only tribes for which you have at least two book sources available. Give the class time to locate the books and any school databases.

Groups will

- search for traditions in each of the categories listed in the chart,
- create a bulleted list of the traditions of a specific tribe on a digital slide template, and
- present detailed information orally to the whole class.

Students can divide the work, share the research materials, and combine information for the final project. Plan to use four to five days for the research, slide making, and presentations.

At the end of each presentation cycle, ask groups to compare the information presented to the information they found about their own assigned tribe. In the space provided in the chart's first column, write the names of the tribes whose traditions are similar to the tribe they studied.



● ▶▶▶ *Native American Traditions*



Tribe: _____

Region: _____

Family Structure Similar to:	
Traditional Government Similar to:	
Traditional Symbols Similar to:	
Traditional Dances Similar to:	
Entertainment/ Celebrations Similar to:	

Food and Tradition

Many cultural traditions include foods, including types of food, food preparation, and mealtime customs. Exploring these diverse traditions is a delicious way to introduce students to different cultural groups.

Model the following exercise to review the technical skills needed for the activity and offer assistance in the decision-making process as students evaluate relevant websites.

Choose a culture to research. Open an Internet browser and type the question "*What foods do people in [country name] eat on their birthday?*" in the search field. Instead of clicking on the first website for information, highlight and copy all of the choices on the first page, and paste them into a new document. With the class, read and discuss the information found under each website title to establish criteria for determining relevance. Choose three sites that may contribute the best information. Delete the others.

Number the websites. Predict which website will give the best information and write the reason in the space provided on the Evaluating Websites worksheet (below). Go to one of the three sites. Read through the information to find what people eat on their birthday; if found, write the answer on the worksheet in the space provided. Continue with the other two websites, adding additional information.

Divide the class into groups of three, and let each group choose a cultural group from a list you create. Instruct students to follow the directions modeled earlier and write answers on their worksheets. After searching through each of their chosen websites, they should decide which one provided the best information and determine what information from the website list gave the best clues in choosing the site. Guide the class in a discussion about how to ascertain website relevance.

Create a class chart where students can post information about birthday foods/traditions from their assigned country. Use the chart to lead a discussion on the similarities and differences found in the study.



Evaluating Websites Worksheet

Name: _____

Question: What do people in _____ eat on their birthday?

Prediction: We predict that website # _____ will have the best information because

Write the answers found on each website:

Website #1

Website #2

Website #3

Discovery: Website # _____ had the best information because

