

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

Episode	Segment
Bread Is For Eating	Hopi Woman making bread
The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush	Feature book, pottery making
The Gift of the Sacred Dog	Pow wow
Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message	Pottery making
Alejandro's Gift	The oasis

Setting the stage:

- Create a book corner with books about a variety of Native Americans. Ask your media specialist for assistance to help gather the collection.
- Display pictures of various Native Americans on a bulletin board to encourage discussions.
- This might be a good time to consider gathering a permanent collection of books and pictures about all cultures for your classroom. Rely on your media specialist to recommend some good books. Acceptance of others is learned during a child's developmental years. Providing an environment year round that encourages acceptance of diversity might be your goal, rather than a one week unit. Are there pictures and books available in your classroom throughout the year? **Reading Rainbow's** commitment to diversity ensures that all children who watch the series on a regular basis will see themselves and their cultures represented in the programs we produce, regardless of their backgrounds.

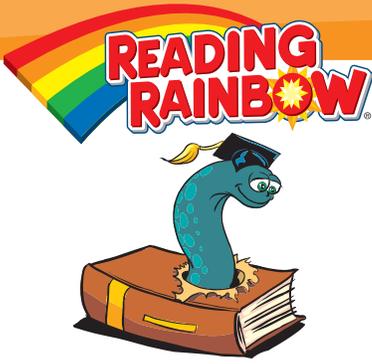
Topics for Discussion:

- Explain that a powwow is a social get-together and celebration of the Native American culture. It is reunion of family and friends and a way for Indian people to keep their traditions alive. Discuss the concept of "traditions" with students. Invite them to share some of their family traditions associated with birthdays, holidays and special occasions.
- In the program **The Gift of the Sacred Dog**, LeVar asks, "If you could choose a new name for yourself, what would it be?" Pose this question to the students. Have them think about special talents and unique qualities they possess and incorporate those into their new names.
- Discuss the similarities and differences of a Native American's life on a reservation and your students' lives.
- Talk about how the introduction of the horse to Plains Indians changed their lives.
- Traditional Native American art, including music, artwork, and dance, is tied to nature because native people believed in the importance of living in harmony with the earth. Discuss any evidence the students saw in the videos of Native Americans' respect for all living things. What does "living in harmony with nature" mean?

Activities to get started:

- Several Native American nations are mentioned in the programs. Use a map to locate past or present day reservations. Be sure to include the Great Plains, where the Plains Indians were located.
- Look at your state map to find names of towns, rivers, lakes, and other geographic features that have Indian names. Research the meanings of these names.
- Obtain a recording of powwow music. In a large space, have students move their feet and bodies according to the way the music makes them feel. Explain that their movements are a response to the rhythms of the drum and singing, rather than traditional dance. Have students use rhythm instruments such as sticks and blocks of wood, or even pencils tapping on a table to reproduce the beating of the drum as they listen.

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Activities to get started, con't:

- Invite a Native American storyteller to the classroom to tell stories and talk about traditional legends or invite someone who could give a demonstration of a powwow dance. A state or local Native American cultural center or agency might be able to suggest resource people.
- Ask each student to choose one Native American nation or one aspect of the Native American culture they would like to learn more about. Provide time and resource materials for them to research. Be sure to allow time for students to share their research with others.
- Enlarge a map of the United States to display on a bulletin board. As students conduct their research, encourage them to label the areas where the different nations lived.
- Have students do earth paintings. They can make their own earth paint from soil. Encourage students to gather some samples of earth in small cups. In most areas, the soil is usually slightly different colors so you may want to gather more than one container. Have students crumble the soil into a powdery consistency, removing small stones and other foreign materials. Make a mixture of two parts soil, two parts water, and one part white glue, and stir it well. Ask students to sketch a scene on a piece of tagboard and then paint their drawings with the earth paints. When the paintings are dry, the soil will be affixed to the paper.