

Buffalo Trace Education Box

Lesson 15

Who are the Native Americans of Indiana?

Purpose: Each group of students will research Native Americans of Indiana, write a short report and create a poster. After sharing, students will observe the similarities and the differences of the Native Americans of Indiana.

Subject Areas: Social Studies, Language Arts (reading, language)

Materials Needed: access to internet or books with information about Native Americans of Indiana, map of Indiana (either an outline on poster board or a highway map), file folders (one for each tribe), index cards (for note taking), envelopes (4-6 for each group), glue, poster board, pencils

Steps:

1. Introduce students to a list of Native American groups of Indiana: Cherokee, Delaware (Lenape), Miami (Piankashaw, Wea), Osage, Peoria, Potawatomi, Shawnee, Wyandot.
2. Have students (or you) generate a list of topics to be researched, for example: Food, Shelter Description, Clothing, Animals, Weapons, Tools, Examples of language and Interesting Facts.
3. Divide the students into Native American groups (either randomly or by interests). Each group will need research materials, a file folder, index cards, envelopes, glue, poster board and pencils. You might assign points for each part of the project: Research, Report, Poster.
4. Student groups choose 4-6 research topics. (Each group must research the Native American location in Indiana.) Student groups can divide their research by topics so that each person is responsible for listing the facts and writing the source on an index card.
5. Each topic is written on an envelope and glued to the inside of the file folder. The envelopes will hold the index cards and keep the research organized for the short report.
6. Student groups write a short report (4-6 paragraphs) using the topics, index cards and facts. The Native American group is written or placed in the proper location on the map of Indiana.

7. After sharing, have students look for: Where were the Native American groups located? What was the same about the groups? Where are the groups located now?

8. Each student group creates a poster for display: title, topics, research, illustrations and/or drawings. Share the display.

Extensions:

- Instead of a poster, have students create a Power Point or a 3-D display of their research.
- Have students use word processing for their report.
- Instead of a file folder, do a "research burrito." Mrs. Warner, a fourth grade teacher in Indiana, shows how to keep track of research on sticky notes. (mrswarnearlington.weebly.com)

Differentiation:

- Limit the number of topics.
- Pair up students according to abilities.
- Set requirements for the number of sources for facts.
- Have fact sheets and/or web sites available for those who need assistance with organizing materials.

Resources:

- **Miami** (teachmyaamiahistory.org) This site has 6 sections for grades 3-12 with primary sources, images, videos and lesson plans. There is a link to the dictionary so that students can listen to word pronunciations and practice speaking the language.
- **Shawnee** (www.shawnee-tribe.com) The site has audio for the Shawnee language and (history.estoo-nsn.gov) has history.
- **Delaware** (delawarenation.com) has information about Turtle Children and a short video on how to count 1-4 in the language.
- **Indians of Indiana** is a two-page information sheet for young readers (www.in.gov/dnr/kids/files/hind.pdf) about: Miami, Kickapoo, Shawnee, Potawatomi and Delaware.
- **Native Americans in Indiana** can be found under Education and Research (www.connerprairie.org).
- Look for the **Native American Webquest** found at (zunal.com/webquest.php?w=20531).
- Download these titles **Indians in Indiana** and **Early Cultures** (users.manchester.edu/student/pjframe/profweb/unit%20plan.pdf) and (www.in.gov/dnr/kids/files/coloringbook2.pdf)

- **Paperback Book** "Indiana Native Americans A-Z" by Carole Marsh (Gallopade International, 2004).
- **School Programs** can be booked through the Woodland Indian Educational Programs (woodlandindianedu.com) along with an Education kit. The organizers are from southern Indiana. The program can be for up to 100 children at a time. The agenda includes hands-on display items and numerous opportunities for audience participation.
- **Artwork** titled "Indians on the Eel River" (1850) by George Winter can be observed at the Indiana University Art Museum Pictures America website. Students can roll the mouse over the painting and answer questions.
- **Ways to say "Hello" in Native American Language** can be downloaded under the Education and Culture section. (americanindiancenter.org)