RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS ON THE LENAPE AND OTHER NATIVE AMERICAN GROUPS

The following list is highly-selective! For a more complete list of resources, together with classroom activities and a wealth of info on Native People, please visit the very comprehensive website of Native American Heritage Programs (lenapeprograms.info). You can use these resources to celebrate National Native American Heritage Month (in November) and to enrich history/social studies classes any time while meeting Academic Standards in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Carla J. S. Messinger - 610-434-6819

BOOKS

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Dickon Among the Lenape: The Indians of New Jersey, M.R. Harrington

A Coloring Book of the First Americans. Features drawings by Lenape artist William S. Bock

When the Shadbush Blooms, Carla Messinger and Sue Katz. See reviews, etc. at www.whenestheshadbushblooms.net

A Native American Thought of It: Amazing inventions and Innovations, Rocky Landon/David MacDonald

1621:A New Look at Thanksgiving (from National Geographic and Plimoth Plantation), Catherine O’Neill Grace/Margaret Bruchac. Good visuals and descriptions.

Teaching About Thanksgiving. An e-guide from The Fourth World Documentation Project. First published in 1986 but still A MUST-READ FOR EVERY EDUCATOR

Let the River Run Silver Again! How One School Helped Return the American Shad to the Potomac River—and How you too Can Help and Restore Our Living Waters

FOR TEENS:

March Toward the Thunder, Joseph Bruchac. Abenaki boy joins Union in Civil War (fiction).

The Winter People, Joseph Bruchac. Fiction about Abenaki people.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL/ADULTS:

A Lenape Among the Quakers: The Life of Hannah Freeman, Dawn G. Marsh.

Our Savage Neighbors: How the Indian War Transformed Early America, Peter Silver


Now That the Buffalo Is Gone: A Study of Today’s American Indians, Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. a 1982 history of injustices perpetrated upon Natives from Coronado to Wounded Knee

The Real All Americans, Sally Jenkins. How Native Americans changed football. New and good.

William Penn’s Own Account of the Lenni Lenape or Delaware Indians.

The Encyclopedia of Native American Religions, Arlene Hirschfelder/Paulette Molin
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The Walking Purchase Hoax of 1737, Ray Thompson

FOR TEACHERS/LEADERS/ PARENTS:

Rethinking Columbus: Teaching About the Anniversary of Columbus’s Arrival in America.

Books Without Bias, Through Indian Eyes, ed. Beverly Slapin/Doris Seale. See also....

How To Tell the Difference: A Guide To Evaluating Children’s Books for Anti-Indian Bias,
Seale/Slapin/Gonzales. An excellent resource—criteria in it are online at oyate.com

Indian Handcrafts: How To Craft Dozens of Practical Objects Using Tradition Indian Techniques, C. Keith Wilbur, MD

FILMS

Smoke Signals, Powwow Highway, Naturally Native—contemporary Native films to start with. See also a descriptive list of Sherman Alexie’s favorite films about Native Americans at billmoyers.com, and visit the American Indian Film Institute’s site for more films and info on its annual Film Festival (http://aifisf.com).

Older Than America (2008) Contemporary drama. A Native woman’s haunting visions reveal a Catholic priest’s plot to keep her mother from speaking the truth about atrocities committed at her Native American boarding school.

Playground of the Native Son. Online documentary about the “Hominy Indians” football team.

Ishi: The Last Yahi. This remarkable 1 hour 16 mm documentary uses archival motion picture footage and hundreds of photos to tell the story of Ishi, who in 1911 emerged from the California wilderness where he had been hiding for 40 years, and became famous as “the last wild Indian in America.” Here is a unique window into aboriginal life in our country. You can see it in full online at http://www.snagfilms.com/title/ishi_the_last_yahi.

The Oneida Speak. Nominated for two Emmys, this 1-hour 2008 film includes material from oral interviews of Oneida Indian elders in Wisconsin done by the Works Progress Administration between 1939-1941 as well as interviews of contemporary Oneida historians, cultural preservationists, and elders. A fascinating in-depth look at one tribe’s history over 150 years (including the theft of millions of acres of its land, the loss of its traditions, life skills, and language and the renewal of its pride and culture and revival of its language beginning in the 1970s. See it online at http://www.snagfilms.com/title/oneida_speak.

MUSIC

Google “Rebel Music: Native America” to see a 25-minute video on talented young NA artists/activists such as Frank Waln. Inez Jasper, Nataanii Means, and Mike Cliff and to access their profiles and a Native America Playlist. These young leaders are fighting against the destruction of Native women, culture, and the environment. On Facebook, they also can be heard on YouTube. Rebel Music also offers free lesson plans that meet core standards and focus on today’s young Native leaders.