

American Indian Heritage Month

November 2009

During National American Indian Heritage Month, we honor the generations of American Indians and Alaska Natives who have added to the character of our Nation. From the Indians living in Chicago, to the most remote village in Alaska, Indians have made, and are making, profound contributions to American life.

Indians serve in the military in disproportionately high numbers. One of the best athletes of the 20th century, Jim Thorpe, was Sac and Fox. One of the 20th century's greatest humorists, Will Rogers, was Cherokee. Louise Erdrich, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa, and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, is a writer of national stature. Dr. N. Scott Momaday, poet and Pulitzer Prize winning author, is of Kiowa and Cherokee descent.

<http://www.nmai.si.edu/>

This is the Smithsonian's web site for the new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. The museum has exhibits relating to Indians from North, Central and South America.

<http://www.ncai.org/>

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest and largest tribal government organization in the United States.

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/nov99.htm>

This site has lesson plans for teaching Indian history as it relates to historic places and events. It is managed by the National Register of Historic Places, a program of the National Park Service.

<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-indn.html>

This is Middle Tennessee State-Murfreesboro's research guide on American Indian women. It has links to primary sources, bibliographies, museums, historic sites and more.

http://www.malakota.com/lak_lesson.html

Listen to a sample lesson from David Little Elk's Lakota Language Course. Lakota, the dialect spoken by western members of the Sioux nation, is similar to the Dakota dialect spoken in Minnesota.

<http://www.fallsapart.com/>

This is the web site of Sherman Alexie, the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene poet, author, screenwriter and film maker. Alexie is known for his 1999 film "Smoke Signals."

