

**Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
Children's Library**

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Selected Materials for Educators and Librarians

Part I: Materials for activities, projects, and lesson plans

Brundin, Judith A. *The Native People of the Northeast Woodlands: An Educational Resource Publication*. Museum of the American Indian-Heye Foundation, 1990.

Background information and classroom activities focusing on Iroquois cultures.

Buffalohead, Priscilla. *Inside the Culture Series: American Indian Astronomy, American Indian Communication Systems, American Indian Timekeeping Devices, American Indian Toys and Games*. Anoka-Hennepin Indian Education Program, 1988.

Four handbooks with activities and teacher guides covering some of the many contributions of Native people in the areas of science and skill building.

Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Keepers of Life: Discovering Plants through Native American Stories and Earth Activities for Children*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1994.

Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1991.

Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1988.

Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Keepers of the Night: Native American Stories and Nocturnal Activities for Children*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1994.

Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac (Abenaki). *Native American Gardening: Stories, Projects and Recipes for Families*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1996.

Children's Museum, Boston. *Many Thanksgivings: Teaching Thanksgiving-Including the Wampanoag Perspective*. The Children's Museum, Boston, 2002.

Seasonal thanksgiving celebrations and related activities are the focus of this very useful guide and curriculum unit from The Children's Museum.

Connecticut State Department of Education. *The Native Americans of Connecticut: Holding On and Moving Forward*. CT State Dept of Education, 2000.

A resource guide for educators with instructional activities.

Hirschfelder, Arlene B. and Yvonne Beamer (Cherokee/Arab). *Native Americans Today: Resources and Activities for Educators, Grades 4-8*. Teacher Ideas Press, 2000.

The authors state in the introduction, "It is time to teach about Native peoples from September to June in every subject, from science to physical education." Over 40 lessons focus on contemporary American Indians and current issues. Useful lists of resources.

Jones, Guy W. (Hunkpapa Lakota) and Sally Moomaw. *Lessons from Turtle Island: Native Curriculum in Early Childhood Classrooms*. Redleaf Press, 2002.

This useful book discusses how teachers can integrate appropriate and accurate materials about Native Americans across the curriculum and throughout the year. Valuable guidelines and resources lists.

Petty, Carolyn A. *Waterdrum Science: Science Through American Indian Arts and Culture*. Larchmere Ltd. Bemidji, MN, 1997.

Practical manual for hands-on learning experiences primarily based on Ojibwe heritage and culture.

Robinson, Barbara. *Native American Sourcebook: A Teacher's Resource on New England Native Peoples*. Concord Museum, 1988.

A useful notebook of lesson plans with background information, activities and bibliographies.

Seale, Doris (Santee/Cree), Beverly Slapin and Carolyn Silverman (Cherokee/Blackfeet). *Thanksgiving: A Native Perspective*. Oyate, 1995.

A collection of essays and stories about Native American thanksgiving traditions and the myth of the "First Thanksgiving".

Susag, Dorothea M. *Roots and Branches: A Resource of Native American Literature-Themes, Lessons, and Bibliographies*. National Council of Teachers of English, 1998.

Intermediate and secondary school teachers will find this resource very useful as it contains themes, lessons, and extensive reviews of materials for teachers, anthologies, and annotated reviews of literature written by Native and non-Native authors.

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation. *Daybreak Star Preschool Activities Book: A Teacher's "How-to" Book*. Daybreak Star, 1979. *The Mamook Book: Activities for learning about the Northwest Coast Indians*. Daybreak Star, 1979. *O Wakaga: Activities for learning about the Plains Indians*. Daybreak Star, 1981.

Three large format handbooks for early childhood and elementary schools with culturally based reproducible games, puzzles, activities, and stories.

The Wabanakis of Maine & the Maritimes: A Resource Book by and about Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, Micmac and Abenaki Indians with extensive resources for all educational levels including sample lesson plans. Prepared for and published by the Wabanaki Program of the American Friends Service Committee, 2002. With a CD of Wabanaki words and songs.

Web Sites:

www.bostonkids.org/educators/wampanoag.html

The Boston Children's Museum and Wampanoag advisors have created "The Wampanoag: Teacher Resources on Native American Life and Culture."

www.cradleboard.org

Buffy Sainte-Marie's online teaching project. Features curriculum materials and cross cultural communications for teachers and students.

www.nativetech.org

Information about Native American technology and art with many links.

Part II: Materials about American Indian histories, cultures, literature, and education, including information on stereotypes and critical evaluations of materials

Bigelow, Bill and Bob Peterson, eds. *Rethinking Columbus: The Next 500 Years*. Rethinking Schools, Inc., 1998.

The first edition of *Rethinking Columbus* (1991) offered a different perspective on the arrival of Columbus in the Americas; this revised and expanded edition is filled with historical information, essays, and lesson plans. It is a useful resource for educators.

Cornelius, Carol (Oneida/Mahican). *Iroquois Corn in a Culture-Based Curriculum: A Framework for Respectfully Teaching about Cultures*. State University of New York Press, 1999.

“Using this conceptual model, teachers can develop a culturally sensitive curriculum on any culture.”

Do All Indians Live In Tipis? Questions and Answers from the National Museum of the American Indian. Collins in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, 2007.

About 100 questions answered by NMAI staff; topics range from the question asked in the title to “what is a winter count?” to “do Indians pay taxes?” There is lots of good information here for educators and older students.

Gilton, Donna A. *Multicultural and Ethnic Children’s Literature in the United States*. Scarecrow Press, 1970.

An extremely useful resource which examines the history, trends, issues, and future of multicultural literature. Informative with many citations and notes.

Harris, Violet J., ed. *Using Multiethnic Literature in the K-8 Classroom*. Christopher-Gordon Publishers, 1997.

Debbie Reese (Pueblo) wrote the chapter, “Native Americans in Children’s Literature,” in this collection of essays about selecting, evaluating, and using literature for a multicultural curriculum. Includes bibliographies.

Hirschfelder, Arlene B., Paulette Fairbanks Molin (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe from the White Earth Reservation) and Yvonne Wakim (Cherokee/Arab). *American Indian Stereotypes in the World of Children: A Reader and Bibliography-2nd edition*. Scarecrow Press, 1999.

A compilation of articles about the stereotypes, myths, misinformation, and inappropriate images of Native Americans which are still common in materials created for young people. Culturally and historically accurate information for children about Native Americans is available and this book helps readers find it.

Lee, Enid, Deborah Menkart and Margo Okazawa-Rey, editors. *Beyond Heroes and Holidays: A Practical Guide to K-12 Anti-Racist, Multicultural Education and Staff Development*. Network of Educators on the Americas, 1998.

Many essays including critiques of Disney’s *Pocahontas*, *The Oregon Trail* CD-ROM and some classroom Thanksgiving activities.

Molin, Paulette F. (Minnesota Chippewa Tribe from the White Earth Reservation). *American Indian Themes in Young Adult Literature*. Scarecrow Press, 2005.

Unfortunately many YA books, both fiction and non-fiction, can be inaccurate and misleading in how they depict Native people. The author, a nationally recognized educator and author, looks critically at some popular titles and gives good insight on how to evaluate and select the best materials.

Seale, Doris (Santee/Cree) and Beverly Slapin, eds. *A Broken Flute: The Native American Experience in Books for Children*. AltaMira Press, 2005.

By focusing on popular themes in children's literature about Native Americans and by critically reviewing currently available books, many different Native reviewers give their eye-opening perspectives on American Indian issues and books. A must-have for librarians and educators.

Slapin, Beverly and Doris Seale (Santee/Cree), eds. *Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children*. American Indian Studies Center, 1998.

Essays, poetry, book reviews, the guide, "How to Tell the Difference," and recommended bibliographies and sources are all found in this useful resource. Edited by Oyate, this book should be "required reading" for all educators and librarians.

Web Sites:

<http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com>

Critical discussion of children's books that contain images and content about American Indians by Debbie Reese (Nambe Pueblo).

www.oyate.org

Oyate is an organization devoted to Native American issues. It is an excellent good source for purchasing Native American materials. Check their catalog with annotated reviews to find many books on our bibliographies.

<http://www.nativeculturelinks.com/indians.html>

Lisa Mitten's Native American Site with information about individual Tribal Nations, current issues, and people.

<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~ecubbins/webcrit.html>

Useful information on evaluating web sites about Native Americans.

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

National Museum of the American Indian site. Current exhibits at the museum in Washington, DC and at the Gustav Heye Center in New York City.

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

The American Indian Library Association, an affiliate of the American Library Association, is a membership action group that addresses the library-related needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

DVD:

Unlearning "Indian" Stereotypes. Originally produced by the Council on Interracial Books for Children, 1977, enhanced by Rethinking Schools, 2008.

Narrated by Native American children, this multimedia DVD teaches about racial stereotypes. Includes teaching ideas, lessons and resources.