

# NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



LAND ➤ LANGUAGE ➤ LEGACY ➤ LORE

Since 1990, November has been Native American Heritage Month and is meant to bring awareness and “pay tribute to the ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.” This year, the EEC is planning a multimedia experience to learn about the eleven federally recognized Native American tribes in the state of Wisconsin. Each week of November will have a theme, and the information will be displayed in the main entrance of our office.



**LAND**  
NOV 5-9

Do you know which Native American tribe inhabited the land you live on? Where you grew up? Do you know where they came from? During the first week of November, there will be information posted that will illustrate the history of the land of Wisconsin and the original inhabitants of the Great Lakes state.



**LANGUAGE**  
NOV 12-16

Our culture and identity is embedded in our language. Many, if not all, Native American tribes are trying to preserve their native language in order to hold on to their culture. During the second week of November, listen to the languages of the Wisconsin tribes and learn about what they are doing to save their languages.



**LEGACY**  
NOV 19-23

What legacy will the tribes of Wisconsin leave, and what have their ancestors already left us? The third week of November will highlight the rich histories of the eleven Native American tribes of Wisconsin and allow you a chance to test your knowledge. How well do you think you know the past of our state’s indigenous peoples?



**LORE**  
NOV 26-30

Native Americans are well known for their oral storytelling, knowledge of the earth and natural medicinal remedies, and spirituality based on their relationship to the earth. During the last month of November, there will be videos every day to watch and witness Native American stories being told in their oral tradition.



# LAND

NOV 5-9

*"You think you own whatever land you land on.  
The Earth is just a dead thing you can claim.  
But I know every rock and tree and creature,  
has a life, has a spirit, has a name."*

— "Colors of the Wind" lyrics, *Pocahontas*

*Pocahontas* may not be historically accurate in most respects, but the lyrics above accurately reflect how many Native Americans felt about the world around them and also how Europeans felt about the land in the "New World." This difference in beliefs was often at the center of misunderstandings involving treaties between the U.S. government and Native tribes.

Since Paleo-Indians made Wisconsin their home in 5000 BCE, hundreds of cultures throughout North America have flourished throughout the centuries, honoring and using the resources of the land.

When Europeans arrived in the Americas, Native populations found themselves fighting for ownership over something they never felt they owned.

Follow the timeline, and learn about the Native Americans who have lived on the land we now call Wisconsin, and, in some cases, *how* they came to call this land their home.



# LANGUAGE

NOV 12-16



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# LEGACY

NOV 19-23

*"We do not inherit the earth from our  
ancestors, we borrow it from our children."*

—Native American Proverb

What legacy will the tribes of Wisconsin leave, and what have their ancestors already left us? This third week of November highlights the rich histories of the eleven Native American tribes of Wisconsin and allow you a chance to test your knowledge. How well do you think you know the past of our state's indigenous peoples?

Read the facts about the various tribes posted on the bulletin board. If you think you know which tribe (or tribes) the information pertains to, lift the paper and see the nation's seal.

There will be facts posted throughout the week.



# LORE

NOV 26-30

*"It takes a thousand voices to tell a single story."*

—Native American saying

*"Tell me the facts and I'll learn. Tell me the truth and I'll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in me forever."*

—Native American proverb

Native Americans are well known for their oral storytelling, knowledge of the earth and natural medicinal remedies, and spirituality based on their relationship to the Earth. During the last month of November, there will be two lunch-and-learns offered. Please bring your lunch to Boardwalk. We'll watch the video and have time for discussion afterward.

# LORE

**TUE 11/27 | 11:50a-12:30p**

## **TRIBAL HISTORIES: HO-CHUNK HISTORY**

*By the banks of the Lemonweir River in what for ages had been Ho-Chunk territory, Andy Thundercloud shares the oral tradition of his people. Thundercloud tells of a traveling people who migrated across the land to become many different tribes, of the importance of maintaining the traditional language, and of the wonderful way of life he has known.*



**THU 11/29 | 12:30p-1:30p**

## **WISCONSIN'S FIRST PEOPLE: MENOMINEE**



*The origin of the Menominee people dates back 1000 years. Listen to the origin story of one of Wisconsin's tribes who had made this state their home for centuries before Europeans arrived and who made the area of the Fox Valley their home.*