

Indigenous Peoples Day

Resources

Many have learned the phrase, "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue". But

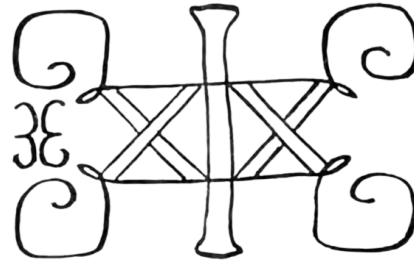
Columbus was not the first foreign explorer to land in the Americas, and neither he nor those that came before him discovered America—because Indigenous Peoples have populated the Western Hemisphere for tens of thousands of years. European contact resulted in devastating loss of life, disruption of tradition, and enormous loss of lands for Indigenous Peoples in the Americas. It is estimated that in the years following first contact, Native America lost 95 percent of its population.

Celebrating Columbus and other explorers like him dismisses the devastating losses experienced by Indigenous Peoples of the Western Hemisphere in the past and the ongoing effects of colonialism today.

In 2019, joined by Wabanaki tribal leaders and representatives, Governor Janet Mills signed legislation to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day in Maine. It is now celebrated on the second Monday of October recognizing the resilience and diversity of Indigenous Peoples instead of honoring Columbus.

In 2021, Governor Mills issued the following statement recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day:

"Maine's culture is in large part the direct result of those who first hunted, farmed, fished and occupied much of the land that we call our home. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, let us pay tribute to those who were the first stewards of this land we love; celebrate their many contributions to our great state; and recommit ourselves to our shared home and future, with respect and trust for one another."



In 2022, Governor Janet Mills issued the following statement recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day:

"Today, our state honors the earliest stewards of the land we are fortunate to call home. For thousands of years, the Indigenous peoples of Maine have shaped the character and identity of Maine. While we have made progress on the challenges we share over these past four years, I believe this progress should represent the beginning, and not the end, of our work. Today, we recognize the contributions of the Wabanaki people to the fabric of Maine, and we recommit to making progress on behalf of our children and grandchildren."

Now we ask ourselves, what does it mean to honor Indigenous people?

When communities replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day, we see the cracks in the false narrative and an opening for the truth to shine in. We celebrate those who have been and are working to open those cracks for more education, healing, and change.

People across this territory are taking it upon themselves to dismantle historical lies and myths that have shrouded the truth. Together - we are writing our grandchildren's history - one that they will be proud of.

I encourage our educators and education community to explore the below resources and discuss them with their students, families, and colleagues.

Video of Penobscot Nation Tribal Ambassador Maulian Bryant:

[MBIPD.mp4](#)

Local Impact (Dawnland specific)

Resource Type	Title/Link	Notes
Statement	Maine Memo – The importance of Indigenous	

	People's Day (Office of the UMO President)	
Statement	Indigenous Peoples' Day statement (City of Lewiston)	
Statement/article	Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day (Maine Audubon)	
Article	Indigenous Peoples' Day in the Dawnland (Freeport Historical Society)	
Statement/article	Indigenous Peoples' Day/Native American Day Eradicate Columbus Day October 9, 2023 (USET)	Includes more resources within
Article	Multiple Events Planned in Celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day (Healthy Acadia)	

Global Impact (all Indigenous)

Resource Type	Title/Link	Notes
Fact sheet/article	Who are indigenous peoples?	
Statement/declaration	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	
Publication	The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Biodiversity Conservation	
Lesson Plan	Indigenous Peoples' Day (IllumiNative)	I really liked the lesson plan set up in this link. It can be

		altered for different age groups and it can highlight past and present indigenous people.
Article	Indigenous storytellers share scary stories and the wisdom they hold (CBC)	Storytelling is a main form of education for Native communities. We are known for verbal teachings and passing down our histories to future generations. This link discusses the importance of stories and how they keep kids safe. It also has clips of people telling stories from their communities.
Video	Indigenous Peoples' Day All About the Holidays (PBS)	This is a video that would be appropriate for elementary school age kids to explain the Columbus day vs Indigenous People's Day change. It is diluted but can give the kids a foundation for future learning.
Video	The word Indigenous – explained CBC Kids News	Elementary, 2.5 minutes, CANADA focused
Sample lesson plans	Lesson Plans (Whose Land)	3 lesson plans: k-5, middle, high school
Article	Cultural Appropriation: What's an Educator's Role? (PBS Teachers Lounge)	For older students the topic of <i>Cultural Appropriation</i> is especially important. This link is really helpful in bringing awareness to teachers and they would be able to differentiate for the

		kids they're teaching. It is also a good opportunity for teachers to connect with current day news and headlines. I.e. supermodels in headdresses, halloween costumes of Indian princesses, football team mascots, and more.
--	--	--

Why not Columbus Day?

Resource Type	Title/Link	Notes
Collection/case study	Abolish Columbus Day: Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples (Zinn Education Project)	
Article/lesson preview	The People vs. Columbus, et al. (Zinn Education Project)	For educators
Handout	Unlearning Columbus Day Myths: Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day	
Article	Why more people are celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day PBS NewsHour	

What to Avoid:

Example of what comes up on tpt for Indigenous People's Day, which is what many teachers go to for resources. Could not find a resource on tpt that I would feel comfortable using.

Indigenous Peoples' Day | Digital Google Slides + PDF

★★★★★ 4.6 (96 ratings) ▾



GRADE LEVELS
K - 3rd

SUBJECTS
Social Studies - History,
Holidays/Seasonal

RESOURCE TYPE
Interactive Whiteboard,
Cultural Activities

FORMATS INCLUDED
✓ Google Drive™ folder

PAGES
14 pages

\$3.00

Add one to cart

Buy licenses to share

Wish List

Share this resource

f t p

Report this resource to TPT

Resource Type	Title/Link	Notes
Fact sheet	Native Now Dos and Don't (IllumiNative)	<p>This is a good resource for teachers and for the public in general about how to respectfully talk about Native People</p>
Video	Leo & Layla Meet Christopher Columbus	<p>Interesting to note that comparing Youtube search results for "Columbus Day", if you filter by year almost all of the videos in last year are more critical of Columbus while acknowledging Indigenous Peoples Day. If you don't filter by year you see a lot more straight Columbus stuff. However, if you type "Columbus Day educational video" the results do not get much better. One that came up first for me was... a lot. If I was a teacher who was not super aware and was just putting on a cute looking video, this video could be pretty harmful to students. Around the 8-ish minute mark it gets really problematic, says</p>

		that people who are critical of Columbus are lying and that slavery is not that bad because it happens everywhere.
--	--	--

Updated 9/2024