

Peace Talk!

NOVEMBER is National Native American Heritage Month. This is a time when the Department of the Interior explores the heritage, culture, and experience of Indigenous peoples both historically and in American life today. The National Park Service collaborates with Indigenous communities to share about their culture.

To learn more about Indigenous people, we have questions for you to answer! If you are 8 years old or younger, we have one set of questions. If you are 9 years and up, we have another set of questions.

Answers will appear in this newsletter on a later page.

Youth Questions:

In this area of PA is the Wissahickon watershed. What does the Lenni-Lenape word 'Wissahickon' mean? A nearby town is also a Lenni-Lenape word—Skippack. What does it mean?

Perkiomen is another word from the Lenni-Lenape. What does it mean?

What game was invented by Indigenous people of North America that is now played at hundreds of high schools and colleges?

Which Native American tribe has the largest reservation in the United States and where is it?

How many states have American Indian names? Can you name any of them?

Older Children & Adult Questions:

1. Which Native American won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1969?

2. True or False? The Native American population has decreased since the late nineteenth century.

3. Why do so many Indian tribes in the US operate casinos on their reservations?

4. How many indigenous languages are spoken in the US today?

5. Which Native American served as vice president of the United States and to which tribe did he belong?

May Peace Prevail on Earth

Resources: <https://www.phillymag.com/news/2015/10/12/philadelphia-native-american-place-names/>
<https://www.nps.gov/lecl/getinvolved/november-2022-native-american-heritage-month.htm>

Native American History Knowledge Cards—A Quiz Deck created by Arlene Hirschfelder

PLACE ANSWERS BELOW IN DIFFERENT LOCATION

Answers to Youth questions:

Wissahickon means catfish stream.

Skippack means wet land.

Perkiomen means where the cranberries grow.

Lacrosse—a fast-paced ball-and-stick game. It was created as a game to release physical energy and resolve disputes between tribes.

The Navajo Nation has the largest reservation, almost 27,000 square miles, and is in northeastern Arizona AND southeastern Utah.

Twenty-seven states have American Indian names. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi,

Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming. At least NINE of these states name a type of water.

Answers to Older Children & Adult Questions: Answers to Questions

1. N. Scott Momaday, A Kiowa from Oklahoma, for the novel *House Made of Dawn*. Momaday often writes and speaks about the power of language, oral tradition, memory and land as a fundamental part of Native identity.
2. FALSE The US population of indigenous peoples has grown steadily from its lowest point in 1890 when Native Americans numbered about 228,000. In the 2000 census, about 2.4 million people identified themselves as only American Indian or Alaska Native. Many more identify as multi-race.
3. Across the country, resource-poor federally recognized reservations have turned to gaming operations as one way to rebuild societies plagued by decades of unemployment. As sovereign governments, they are not subject to all state regulations on gambling.
4. Although the vast majority of Native people speak English, an estimated 250 languages, belonging to more than ten linguistic families, are spoken by Native peoples.
5. Charles Curtis, a Kaw Indian from Kansas, was vice president under Herbert Hoover from 1929-1933. He was an attorney and a conservative Republican.