

Title of Session: AIS: Celebrate November as Native American Heritage Month

Moderator: Christine Rose

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Room: American Indian Studies Group

LindaU joined the room.

ChristinR2: Hi Linda!

BjB: Hi, Linda! Thanks for joining us

ChristinR2: Welcome!

LindaU: Hi Christine

ChristinR2: Hi there. Thanks for joining us.

LindaU: Looking forward to learning what you have

ChristinR2: Linda, are you a teacher? and if so, what grades?

ChristinR2: I want to be sure I share what people will find useful.

BjB: Christine, Linda leads the Global Project Based Learning discussions

BjB: you both have a lot in common, but from different perspectives

ChristinR2: Wow!! Can you tell me about that a little bit?

LindaU: Right now I work at a community college working with teachers who are learning to integrate project based learning and technology.

ChristinR2: that sounds very useful these days...the absolute wave of the future.

LindaU: In January I'll be working for the New Tech Foundation helping teachers in New Tech Highs in NC integrate PBL and technology.

ChristinR2: and that will include curriculum?

ChristinR2: in other words, that will be a method that teachers will use to teach?

LindaU: One of my schools is in Cherokee NC. I believe there are many Native American students in that school.

ChristinR2: Yes, I would say so.

ChristinR2: Will you be working with the tribe?

LindaU: Teachers learn to use PBL and technology as instructional strategies and tools based on their curriculum

LindaU: I don't know yet. I'm just starting the job.

ChristinR2: The Cherokees are developing wonderful curriculum in Cherokee these days. A lot of tribes are beginning to do that...revitalize language and culture through technology.

ChristinR2: Very exciting.

LindaU: Fantastic.

ChristinR2: I recently saw a video that will be used to teach about the Trail of Tears...animated, all in Cherokee, with English subtitles.

ChristinR2: amazing.

ChristinR2: There is a lot going on with that. Another group in Washington State is doing the same.

LindaU: There is a wonderful museum and a wonderful replication of a Cherokee village in Cherokee. I love to go there visit.

ChristinR2: So, that gets us to Breaking Stereotypes, doesn't it.

ChristinR2: Yes, I was there about two or three years ago.

LindaU: I've recently been trying to find out more about the Cherokee and was amazed to discover how many different tribes were displaced then.

DorothyEd joined the room.

ChristinR2: What is your interest in joining us tonight? If it is just us three, we can tailor it to your needs.

ChristinR2: Hello Dorothy!

BjB: welcome, Dorothy. We're just starting

ChristinR2: Yes, please, tell us about yourself, Dorothy.

DorothyEd: I am here to learn some more about Native Americans. I teach American Lit.

LindaU: My daughter in law is part Nez Perce (Colville Band) near Spokane

DorothyEd: Hello everyone.

ChristinR2: Well, what I am hoping to do, is take you on a whirlwind tour of lots of terrific teaching sites

LindaU: Just interested in what you have in mind.

ChristinR2: and then we can talk about anything that is of interest to you.

ChristinR2: Has either Linda or Dorothy had any exposure to Native Culture?

LindaU: Perhaps meeting the needs of Native students

DorothyEd: I am from the US Virgin Islands.

ChristinR2: That's key!

LindaU: Thank you.. this will be helpful to me when I'm support the teachers in Cherokee.

ChristinR2: Okay then

ChristinR2: Did I miss the answer to the question of whether or not anyone has had any contact with Native peoples?

BjB: I have.

ChristinR2: Okay. Let's start with stereotypes...

DorothyEd: I have a few students from Native American descent.

ChristinR2: where do you teach?

DorothyEd: I teach in Maryland.

JeffC joined the room.

ChristinR2: I have done a lot of work in Maryland.

BjB: welcome, Jeff. Please introduce yourself

ChristinR2: Hello Jeff. Thank you for joining us.

DorothyEd: That's great!

ChristinR2: Dorothy, do you remember when they were discussing the mascot issue in Maryland?

ChristinR2: About four years ago?

LindaU: Yes, I have through my daughter in law and her dad.. conferences I've been at in Arizona I presented at a Native American Ed. Tech Conference there a few years ago, and I had 3-6 grade students with the Native Ohlone (Mwekma Band) during a local history project.

JeffC waves. I'm on Helpdesk here, teach edtech for Concordia to Masters of Ed students, live in Forest Grove Oregon.

DorothyEd: They are very intelligent and well adjusted.

BjB: btw, you all might want to join this group so that you can get Christine's reminders of the monthly discussions

DorothyEd: Yes I remember.

ChristinR2: I was working with the State Board of Ed on that.

DorothyEd: Ok.

ChristinR2: Okay, so we are not novices here, if you think it is unnecessary, we can skip the intro to stereotypes, but lets have a quick look at this page anyway.

DorothyEd: That would be good.

ChristinR2: www.aigenom.com/Stereotypes.html

BjB checks to make sure everyone got the url

ChristinR2: Have a look and if we can do this, maybe we can talk about anything on that page that jumps out at you.

BjB . o O (you may need to hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url)

ChristinR2: You can click on the images to make them larger.

ChristinR2: As you look at the images, think of your own childhood. Think about the way you thought of Indians as a child.

ChristinR2: They were scary, exciting, wild, and dangerous...if known only through the images presented by the media.

ChristinR2: Do you ever wonder why these images were presented to America in such a way?

ChristinR2: Please feel free to share your thoughts.

DorothyEd: Maybe guilt for what was done to the Native Americans.

ChristinR2: Images like these were presented to America because if we only saw them as savages, as ruthless killers, or as drunks, we wouldn't have to treat them with respect.

ChristinR2: These images allowed us to perceive Indians as not worthy of the land...while we were so "civilized" that of course we could take it from them.

DorothyEd: Exactly.

ChristinR2: These images promoted a countrywide policy of racism against Indians.

ChristinR2: It is really impactful to imagine this country was founded on racism.

BjB: racism was a huge influence throughout all history

ChristinR2: The truth is not pretty, but we can rise above the past into a more accepting and inclusive future.

ChristinR2: Yes, BJ, it really was.

ChristinR2: Racism, or intolerance is always used in war...if you think about wars in the past, every group that was fought was called derogatory names.

DorothyEd: Even now it is still rife in some areas.

JeffC: You think so? Aren't Muslims in America becoming today's Indian?

ChristinR2: The difference is Indians are the only people that had war waged against them that are still called those names.

DorothyEd: Look at the Iraq war right now.

LindaU thinks Jeff remembers that my husband is Muslim

JeffC: and we are a social pariah internationally?

JeffC: right... and don't you hate him!?

ChristinR2: Absolutely, Jeff. To a T!

ChristinR2: Okay, back to Native Americans...

ChristinR2: LOL I am hoping this is teasing going on.

LindaU: I can tell you that I've seen my husband go from being proud of his heritage to trying to hide it since 9-11--

ChristinR2: Okay, so when we look at the majority of curriculum available it only reflects that time.

ChristinR2: The war time.

LindaU: I know that historically the same thing has happened to Native Americans.

JeffC: exactly Linda

ChristinR2: I am sure, Linda, and it is a very good point, because many many Natives did the same thing.

JeffC: I'm not kidding when I said what I originally said.

ChristinR2: Okay, let's go to another page

ChristinR2: go to www.racismagainstindians.org and click on TUnderstanding the Native Perspective

ChristinR2: This page has a lot of really good info in it. You can let middle school and high school students loose on the entire site and they can find all kinds of things they won't find in their history books

JeffC: I do think that today's students should learn from history, but it's tough when patriotic fervor distorts and propagandizes race.

JeffC: and parallels are not drawn or discussed in K-12 classes.

ChristinR2: If you look at this page you will find all kinds of things kids can research further about Contributions that Native Americans have made to society.

LindaU: About a year or so ago, I read a book written in the 1800s by a person who traveled by wagon train to SF... I can't remember the name of the book.. but it was the most racist account of his experiences.

ChristinR2: There are a lot of books that are on required reading lists that are horribly racist.

DorothyEd: I believe the curriculum in Maryland has a more up-to-date picture of Native Americans, but we can always improve.

ChristinR2: The Sign of the Beaver, Little House on the Prairie...if they wrote like that about African Americans the books would be off the shelves.

LindaU: I know the Margolian book on the Ohlone is. "The Onlone Way."

ChristinR2: Many schools are updating their curriculum...but it is important to be certain that the curriculum is Native approved. Do you all know about Oyate?

ChristinR2: Thank you for the info on that book. I will look into it.

LindaU: Oyate? no.

DorothyEd: No..

ChristinR2: Okay. VERY important resource. Go to oyate.org

BjB: www.oyate.org

ChristinR2: Click on the photo and go to the catalog

LindaU: Wow.. that is the impression that we have been historically given.

ChristinR2: Then click on Posters

ChristinR2: Then click on Teaching Respect for Native Peoples

ChristinR2: I believe you can get this poster free. It is a must have for all classrooms.

ChristinR2: An entire class could be taught from that poster alone.

LindaU: Thank you.

ChristinR2 -)

ChristinR2: When you are ready, we will go on, but take your time.

DorothyEd: It is truly a must have.

ChristinR2: yes. It is really valuable.

ChristinR2: And it opens so many doors for teaching moments when kids say, What's wrong with doing those things.

LindaU: Exactly.

ChristinR2: When you have time, you might like to go back to Students and Teachers Against Racism and read Indian 101 for real stories by a man

ChristinR2: who has lived as a stereotype

ChristinR2: and written beautifully about why it is not a good thing.

ChristinR2: Go to Indian 101.

ChristinR2: www.racismagainstindians.org

ChristinR2: then go to Indian 101

ChristinR2: That big guy is buddy and work partner.

ChristinR2: His writing is fantastic and well worth reading.

ChristinR2: In particular, Indian Crafts and Indian names for students

ChristinR2: When you are done reading that, you might want to go back to Indian 101 home page, where Richie's picture is.

ChristinR2: Then scroll down until you come to the picture of Richie wearing Chief Wahoo.

ChristinR2: Let me know if you have any reactions to that picture.

BjB: not a very good reaction...a lot of conflicting symbols

ChristinR2: yes.

LindaU: My first thought was "Oh wow!" It was surprising. Not what I expected

ChristinR2: about what?

LindaU: As BJ said--the conflicting symbol... It kind of shocked me.. but as I reflect on it.. it make sense that he is "putting it out there"

ChristinR2: Richie does a wonderful presentation and talks about being American, and about being the brunt of stereotypes. He is a talented presenter.

ChristinR2: Okay, our last visit will be to www.changingwinds.org

ChristinR2: when you are there, I want to take you through two sections, then leave you to peruse them. There is a lot on this site.

ChristinR2: Go to Civil Rights, and click on Complaints we have received.

BjB hopes Christine will start adding the sites she shared to the group room featured links

ChristinR2: certainly.

LindaU: Thank you.. this has been fantastic...

ChristinR2: As you scroll down the Complaints page, read each one. Some of them might not seem very harsh. But taken as a whole, violation after violation, by the time you finish reading them, you will feel slightly injured.

BjB nods sadly

ChristinR2: You will see how disrespect still winds throughout the Native peoples culture by the dominant culture

ChristinR2: The thing about this is, this is how a Native person feels by the time they are in high school. It was described to me once as, one pinch doesn't hurt that much, but a lifetime of being pinched will drive you crazy.

ChristinR2: when you are done, go back to the home page.

ChristinR2: when you are ready, Click on the Education section

ChristinR2: The buttons aren't working for me. I wonder if my computer is tired. I will just let you know that section has a tremendous amount of material, tribal approved curriculum and lesson plans

BjB: which is the correct name, Christine - Native American or American Indian?

ChristinR2: really good papers...especially for anyone who may be teaching on a reservation or near one, for the first time.

ChristinR2: Varies, by area.

LindaU: Absolutely.. BJ's question is one that I also have.

LindaU: In Canada they use Indigenous People.

ChristinR2: In South Dakota, its Indian, in many other places, its Native American...it is never a bad thing to ask what people prefer.

LindaU: Good point. thank you.

BjB: thanks

ChristinR2: That's right, indigenous, and even First Peoples.

ChristinR2: well, I am sure I have worn you all out.

ChristinR2: are there any questions?

DorothyEd: I have a question about the crafts. What is the controversy about the crafts? I appreciate Native American crafts.

ChristinR2: Yes, no problem when they are made by Native people.

ChristinR2: It is very interesting how sensitive Native people are to appropriation

BjB: Our time is up, Christine. I'd like to thank you again for agreeing to lead this monthly discussion. The next one is scheduled for December 15

ChristinR2: I know people who will not sing a song unless they are given permission to sing it

DorothyEd: Ok. I have received a couple catalogs from the Navaho Nation.

ChristinR2: It is a cultural thing and the source of many cultural clashes, because we always assume what's there is for everyone

ChristinR2: We have taken so much from them and left them so little that is sacred.

ChristinR2: Most art has a basis in spirituality for Native people.

ChristinR2: It would be like making communion wafers as a class project'

DorothyEd: I am glad I joined in this discussion. I am very much enlightened. Thank you, Christine.

BjB: please join the group, Dorothy

ChristinR2: Thank you so very much for coming. We will be doing more of these classes soon

BjB . o O (if you do not know how to do that, I can help)

DorothyEd: How do I do that?

ChristinR2: and inviting Native educators to present as well

BjB: attach your chat window, if you've detached

DorothyEd: Ok, done.

BjB: then look on the welcome note

BjB . o O (above this chat window)

DorothyEd: Yes, I see it.

BjB: for This is the group room for American Indian Studies

BjB: click on the green i

BjB: you'll get the group ID page

BjB: there is a place to join this group at the top

DorothyEd: Ok

BjB: I think with Christine's leadership, this room will become a treasure of resources

ChristinR2: Dorothy, and everyone else, feel free to contact me off this list anytime.

BjB puts in a plug for Linda's Global Project Based Learning discussion on December 14

DorothyEd: Did I have to fill out anything?

ChristinR2: I can be reached at any of the email addresses on Changing Winds.

BjB: no, nothing to fill out, Dorothy

DorothyEd: OK, I just clicked on the join this group tab.

BjB: you've successfully joined!

ChristinR2: I got the email that you joined. Welcome to the group, Dorothy.

DorothyEd: Ok, Thanks!

ChristinR2: BJ, thank you so much for inviting me to join.

BjB waves goodnight and heads for bed. Have a good weekend, everyone

ChristinR2: Good night, I hope to see you all again.

DorothyEd: Ok, good night, all.