



## NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH - FAQs

- **Why do we celebrate Native American Heritage Month?**

“November is Native American Heritage Month, or as it is commonly referred to, American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. The month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people,” according to the National Congress of American Indians.

- **How do you honor Native American ancestors?**

You can honor Native American Heritage Month and support Mother Nature at the same time by planting flowers and plants that are indigenous to your area.

- **Learn about Native American Tribes in your Area.**

**What are the 10 largest Native American tribes?**

The 10 largest Native American tribes are Navajo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Chippewa, Apache, Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Reservation of Montana, Cherokee Nation and Sioux, according to census data from 2020.

- **What are the most widely recognized languages spoken by Native American tribes?**

Navajo, Central Alaskan Yupik, Tlingit, Haida, Dakota, Seneca, Lakota, Western Apache, Keres, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Kiowa, Comanche, Osage, Zuni, Pawnee, Shawnee, Winnebago, Ojibwe, Cree, and O'odham.

### **WHY NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IS IMPORTANT**

- **They have a rich history.**

The Native Americans have been living in America for a very long time. They were not a single nation but included a variety of cultures, nations, and languages. Some people believe that they have been living on the sub-continent for over 30,000 years.

- **Native Americans have contributed a lot.**

There are many contributions made by the Native Americans such as the discovery of edible plants, which are widely eaten by people around the world. They were the first people to raise turkeys, guinea pigs, and honeybees.

- **They established the government system.**

The government of Native Americans serves as the model of federated representative democracy. The government system of the U.S. is based on the system in which the power is distributed among the central authority and smaller political units.

## HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- **Learn about the Native Americans**

Native American Heritage Month is an excellent way to learn about the history of American Indians. You can teach your children about the country's past and how Native Americans have helped America. HISTORY CHANNEL

- [NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY TIMELINE](#)
- [NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURES](#)
- [9 FACTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES](#)
- [10 Native American Inventions Commonly Used Today](#)

- **Visit Museums.**

You can go to a museum in your region or virtually visit it to see the artifacts and exhibits of the Native Americans' jewelry, customs, and culture.

- [National Museum of the American Indian](#)
- [Indigenous Arts of North](#) - Denver Art Museum
- [Contemporary Perspectives in Indigenous Art](#) Google Arts and Culture

- **Travel virtually to see other cultures.**

There are many cultural videos that you can watch on native culture like "Living Earth Festival". If you or your kids are interested in learning about the Native American culture, find a documentary or movie about it and watch it.

## FIVE AMAZING FACTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

### 1. The last Indian

Ishi was the last known surviving member of the Native American Yahi tribe.

### 2. The Sequoia tree.

The Sequoia tree is named in honor of Cherokee leader Sequoyah.

### 3. American Natives referred to as Indians.

Although it has been 500 years, Native Americans are still often referred to as Indians.

**4. The origin of the term "Indians."** Historians believe that this term is a result Columbus' misconception, who used it to refer to the original inhabitants of the American continent because he thought he had arrived in "the Indies" (Asia), which was his intended destination. Names of the U.S. states

**5. The names of many U.S. States** are derived from Amerindian words, such as Connecticut, Kentucky, and Arizona.