
Additional Sample Topics

The following list of sample topics is intended to help ethnic studies teachers develop content for their courses. It is not intended to be exhaustive.

- Five Phases of American Indian History
 - Pre-contact – Creation Stories
 - Contact – Benevolent to Confrontational
 - Reservations – Governmental Patrilineage
 - Termination – Political Genocide
 - Self-Determination – Indian Definition
- Pre-contact Native American Knowledge, Epistemologies, and Culture
- Cahokia Pyramids Cliff Dwellings
- Settler Colonialism and Land Removal
- Land Acknowledgment and the Recognition of the Different Regions (California Region, Plains, Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, Southeast)
- Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny¹⁷
- History and Implications of Broken Treaties
- Enslavement of California Native Americans during the Mission Period and the Gold Rush
- Symbolism of Regalia Worn at Pow Wows
- Destruction of the Ecology, Sacredness of Nature, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
- Medicine Wheel
- Peace and Dignity Journeys
- Prophecy of the Eagle and the Condor
- Genocide against Native Americans
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Reparation Act
- Forced Assimilation and American Indian Boarding Schools
- Native American Foodways and Seed Protection

17 The Doctrine of Discovery is a papal policy created in Europe that gave the right to Europeans to take the land of non-Christians around the world.

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- Contributions of Native Americans During World War II
 - American Indian Movement (AIM)
 - Native American Cultural Retention
 - Occupation of Alcatraz
 - Struggle for and Separation of Native American Sacred Lands
 - Native Americans and the Environmental Justice Movement
 - Contemporary Debates on the Appropriation of Native American Culture
 - Native American Identity and Federal Recognitions
 - Native American Literature and Folklore
 - Native American Oral Tradition
 - Identification of Contemporary Debates on Claiming Indigeneity and Blood Quantum Restrictions
 - Life on Reservations and Rancherias and Forced Urban Relocation
 - Native American Intergenerational Health Disparities and Healing
 - Native American Feminism
 - Eighteen California Treaties That Were Unratified
 - Native American Mascot Controversy in Mainstream Sports

Potential California Tribes to Cover:¹⁸

- Cahuilla
- Chumash
- Hupa
- Kumeyaay
- Maidu
- Miwok
- Ohlone
- Patwin (Wintun)
- Shoshone
- Tataviam

18 It is recommended that teachers do intensive research on local Indigenous groups and their current status.

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- Tongva
 - Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk
 - Winnemem Wintu
 - Yurok

When developing lessons for Native American studies, it may be helpful to include a time line of major events for the tribe or tribes being studied. It is important that educators work together with local tribal organizations to gather accurate and relevant information for a tribe-specific time line. A sample time line courtesy of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/ch4.asp#link342>.

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian provides resources for educators who wish to engage students in Native American studies. In addition to “Americans: A Dialogue Toolkit for Educators,” the Smithsonian offers “Native Knowledge 360 Degrees Educational Resources,” which provides teacher support and resources, virtual field trips for students, and professional development (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/ch4.asp#link343>).