



## COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

For the month of November, we are recognizing Indigenous People's Month or National Native American Heritage Month. The image above is taken from a map of Washtenaw County from 1927 that indicates existing trails, burial locations, and villages of Native Americans or indigenous people in the region. You can learn more about this map - and the book it is from - here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y69jonnd>.

Explore this and more throughout this month and every month as we seek to continue learning and growing our knowledge of local and indigenous history.

November also includes our national celebration of Thanksgiving. Read through the other sources on the second page of this newsletter and consider developing your knowledge about this with some additional readings:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2rfwtyb>.

Enjoy this month, and continue to reach out with ideas, questions, and suggestions for our work towards equity and inclusion.

~Joslyn Hunscher-Young

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S MONTH

November has only officially been recognized as National Native American Heritage Month since 1990. Prior to that, there was national recognition of American Indian Week (dating back to 1986) and American Indian Day (dating back to 1915). All of these efforts were and are aimed at recognizing and celebrating the extensive history and diversity of indigenous people across the United States.

Now, many cities - including Ypsilanti - also recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous People's Day (as opposed to Columbus Day). This is intended as a symbolic gesture to honor the contributions of indigenous, or native, people rather than the legacy of Christopher Columbus and the colonization and massive losses of life and culture that followed him. Learn more about this shift from another city that just recently made this same shift in wording - Washington D.C.:

<https://tinyurl.com/yyobsgj2>.

At Washtenaw International, we are celebrating this month as Indigenous People's Month rather than Native American Heritage Month because we want to also consider the global contributions of indigenous people throughout our International Baccalaureate curriculum. We hope this phrasing might be inclusive of all native people, but recognize that many people may prefer the focus on Native Americans.

### LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES & CONVERSATION STARTERS

Consider using the following to help develop your own knowledge or start conversations with those around you:

- Examine some of the specials available from PBS in honor of this month: <https://tinyurl.com/neodz3q>. Discuss with your family what you learned, questions you still have, and how you'll continue to learn about the cultures and contributions of indigenous people in today's world.
- In recognizing Veteran's Day and Native American Heritage Month, take a moment to review some stories from indigenous veterans: <https://tinyurl.com/gw7djrj>. Discuss with your family what you learned, what stands out to you about the work of Native American veterans, and how we can/should honor their service.
- Check out the site/app Native Land: <https://native-land.ca/>. As you move in Michigan and beyond, consider and discuss with your family the native territories, languages, and treaties that inform that place's history and modern existence.

"LOOK FORWARD. TURN WHAT HAS BEEN DONE INTO A BETTER PATH."  
~ Wilma Mankiller



## THE TRUTH OF THANKSGIVING

Towards the end of this month, we all will have several days off of school in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday. This is a chance for us all to recharge and reflect on what we value and appreciate in our lives. However, for some people, the history of this tradition that is often told does not recognize all the historical facts and perspectives we know to be true.

The image above, for example, is of a painting by JLG Ferris in 1932 entitled "The first Thanksgiving: 1621." However, many historians take issue with the 1621 date (referencing that many people had similar fall harvest celebrations prior to this date). People also question the friendly and peaceful nature of this meal that was often described. Read more about this criticism here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9mhjm59> or here: <https://tinyurl.com/y208yh2v>.

Similarly, some indigenous groups recognize this holiday as a National Day of Mourning. In Plymouth, Massachusetts this day has been commemorated since 1970 to remember and honor Native Americans whose lives were lost, lands taken, and cultures torn apart in the aftermath of European arrival in the Americas. Read more about this here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3dtklt2> or here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyq6njvb>.

However, because history is made through debate and conversation, it's also important to acknowledge and understand critiques of this very criticism, which you can read through here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6sxtlp8>. Regardless of where your personal opinions about Thanksgiving end up, we hope that you can use this as an opportunity to examine history, inquire, think critically, and engage in meaningful conversations on the extended no homework weekend this month.



## W.I. FILM SERIES - *RACE: POWER OF AN ILLUSION*

Over the next several months, we are happy to host a family and community film series with discussions surrounding the PBS documentary series *Race: Power of an Illusion*. Each film screening will be from 6:30-8:30 pm to allow time to watch the (roughly hour long) episode together and have time for discussion. Please join us and bring a friend or family member! We'll have popcorn!

- **Tuesday, Dec. 3, Episode 1 - The Difference Between Us:** Examining modern science that challenges our common sense assumptions about race
- **Thursday, Jan. 23, Episode 2 - The Story We Tell:** Uncovering the roots of race in North America
- **Wednesday, Mar. 18, Episode 3 - The House We Live In:** Examining race in politics, economics, and culture

Learn more about the film series here: <https://www.racepowerofanillusion.org/>.

## CELEBRATIONS

In celebration of Native American Heritage Month and indigenous people from around the globe, here are the posters going up this month:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3x6ae8c>

And the passing time playlist students hear between classes can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2k2va2z>

## EVENTS

Here are some great events to check out in our area this month, and more about events at U of M - Ann Arbor can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxjvawh8>

### Two Spirit Identity

- Nov. 6, 6:00 pm, UM Ann Arbor Michigan League, Vandenberg
- More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyeo7opm>

### A History of Boarding Schools

- Nov. 11, 12:00 pm, UM Ann Arbor Hatcher Graduate Library
- More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y65d2qwy>

### Native Women Beyond Statistics

- Nov. 12, 6:00 pm, EMU Student Center, Intersection Room
- More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3pshbxh>

### Discovery of a New Nation

- Nov. 12, 7:00 pm, Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker OR
  - Nov. 15, 7:00 pm, Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown
  - More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2z2br6j>
- OR here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxt8l7d7>

### Talk Culture: Two-Spirit Identity

- Nov. 19, 6:00 pm, EMU Student Center, Intersection Room
- More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3pshbxh>

### Shadow Nation (Film Screening)

- Nov. 19, 6:30 pm, Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker
- More details can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4jmynb5>

## RESOURCES

The following resources were used in the creation of this newsletter:

- <https://tinyurl.com/p48paxy>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y46jl2zf>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y47e55xz>

### Images

- <https://tinyurl.com/y69jonnd>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y29hqqbq>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y6sz2wcj>