

Native American Booklist for Kids



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A Young Child's World

The Blue Roses by Linda Boyden.

Raised by her grandfather, a Native American girl learns about life and loss when her grandfather dies and then begins to speak to her in her dreams.

First Salmon by Roxane Salonen.

Every spring the pacific northwestern Native Americans celebrate First Salmon. This spring Charlie is having a hard time celebrating as he remembers his late Uncle Joe.

The Good Luck Cat by Joy Harjo.

A young Native American girl worries when her good luck cat Woogie, who has already used up eight of his nine lives, suddenly disappears.

Mystic Horse by Paul Goble.

After taking in and caring for an old abandoned horse, a young Pawnee boy receives a reward for his good deed.

Sky Dancers by Connie Ann Kirk.

Living in upstate New York, John Cloud, a Mohawk child, goes to visit his father who is working as a Sky dancer on the Empire State Building.

Friends and Family

Bad River Boys: A Meeting of the Lakota Sioux With Lewis and Clark by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve.

This is a fictionalized account of the tenuous first meeting of members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and three Lakota boys.

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich.

Omakayas is a seven-year-old Ojibwa girl living on Lake Superior whose life, centered around family and tradition, whose life soon changes with the arrival of white settlers. Also by Erdrich: **The Game of Silence**.

Hidden Roots by Joseph Bruchac.

An eleven-year-old boy with a violent father befriends the town librarian, learns about Abenaki traditions and discovers the truth about his family.

Indian Shoes by Cynthia Leitich Smith.

Ray and Grampa Halfmoon live in Chicago but fondly recall their Cherokee-Seminole heritage.

Meet Kaya: An American Girl by Janet Shaw.

Kaya is a Nez Perce girl in 1764, before America was a country.

Sky by Pamela Porter.

A fictionalized story based on true events chronicling Georgia and her grandfather's survival of the 1964 flood on the Blackfeet reservation in northern Montana.



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The Star People: A Lakota Story by S.D. Nelson.

Sister Girl and Young Wolf find themselves lost after escaping a prairie fire, but are guided back home by the spirit of their grandmother and the Star People.

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson.

Cole's violence against a classmate results in his being sentenced, via Circle Justice, to an uninhabited Alaskan island. Cole attempts escape, but encounters the Spirit Bear that changes his life forever.

Whisper in the Dark by Joseph Bruchac.

A teenage girl, one of the last living descendents of a great Narragansett chief, believes a legendary monster known as the Whisperer in the Dark has come for her.

The Year of Miss Agnes by Kirkpatrick Hill.

Told in nine-year-old Fred's simple, honest voice, this is a story about Alaska, about the old ways and the new, and about a special teacher who touches the lives of everyone she meets.

Customs, Cultures & Celebrations

Children of Native America Today by Yvonne Wakim Dennis and Arlene Hirschfelder.

Color photographs are included in this introduction to traditions, activities, and lifestyles of children from various North American tribes including two Wisconsin tribes.

Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu.

Jenna, a member of the Muscogee, or Creek Nation, borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the powwow.

Powwow: A Good Day to Dance by Jacqueline Dembar Greene.

The author follows the activities of a young boy as his family attends a Wampanoag powwow, describing the significance of some of the dances and events at the gathering.

Skeleton Man by Joseph Bruchac.

After her parents disappear and she is turned over to the care of a strange "great-uncle," Molly must rely on her dreams about an old Mohawk story for her maybe even her life.



Turtle's Race With Beaver: A Traditional Seneca Story by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac.

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Turtle outsmarts Beaver and in the process teaches Beaver to share.

Folk Tales

How Chipmunk Got His Stripes: A Tale of Bragging and Teasing as told by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac.

When Bear and Brown Squirrel have a disagreement about whether Bear can stop the sun from rising, Brown Squirrel ends up with claw marks on his back and becomes Chipmunk, the striped one.

On the Trail Made of Dawn: Native American Creation Stories retold by M.L. Webster.

The author presents thirteen creation stories from Native American tribes, putting them in the context of the culture and beliefs of the tribes.

The Wonderful Sky Boat: And Other Native American Tales of the Southeast compiled by Jane Louise Curry.

This volume has clever stories of witty tricksters, daring adventures and supernatural events as told by tribes of the southeastern United States.

Historical Fiction

Crazy Horse's Vision by Joseph Bruchac.

Crazy Horse's Vision is based on the life of the brave young Lakota child who grew up to become a defender of his people.

Geronimo by Joseph Bruchac.

Geronimo has surrendered and is moved from camp to camp, treated like a prisoner of war, and is forbidden to return to his homeland.

Smiler's Bones by Peter Lerangis.

Based on a true story from 1897, this fictional story tells what happened to six Eskimos that Artic explorer Robert Peary brought back for a living exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Historical Fact

A Braid of Lives: Native American Childhood by Neil Philip.

Here is an inside look into childhood and growing up as a Native American through testimonies and stories.



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Buffalo: with Selections from Native American Song-poems by Beverly Brodsky.

This book presents readers with tribal song-poems and paintings that are used to express the buffalo's essential and sacred role on the Great Plains.

The Ghost Dance by Alice McLerran.

The Native American ghost dance origins and meaning are presented in this narrative text. Through the eyes of children living on the Rosebud Sioux reservation in South Dakota, learn about the history, culture and beliefs of the Lakota Indians

"Indians of..." Series

Discover the culture, beliefs, social structure, and daily lives of the diverse Native Americans who lived in North America before the Europeans arrived. Titles are:

Indians of the Great Plains: Traditions, History, Legends, and Life by Lisa Sita

Indians of the Northeast: Traditions, History, Legends, and Life by Lisa Sita

Indians of the Northwest: Traditions, History, Legends, and Life by Petra Press

Indians of the Southwest: Traditions, History, Legends, and Life by Lisa Sita

Jim Thorpe's Bright Path by Joseph Bruchac.

A biography about Olympic gold medal winner Jim Thorpe with an inside look at his boyhood education and how it set the stage for his athletic achievements.

Longhouse by Cynthia Breslin Beres.

Describes the way of life of tribes from the League of the Iroquois, who took pride in their longhouses, unique dwellings that they built for homes and ceremonies.

Pocahontas by Joseph Bruchac.

Pocahontas and John Smith give readers their side of the story as they dealt with encounters between the Powhatan Indians and the English colonists of the 17th century.

The Powhatan: A Confederacy of Native American Tribes by Tracey Boraas.

Discover the lives of the Powhatan people and trace their customs, history, culture, family life and relations with the United States' government.

Pushing Up the Sky: Seven Native American Plays for Children by Joseph Bruchac.

Pushing Up the Sky uses drama to tell seven different stories originally told in Native American tribes including the Abenaki, Ojibway, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Snohomish, Tlingit, and Zuni.

The Sioux by Gwen Remington.

This historical overview from prehistoric times to present day provides an introduction to the customs, religion and traditions of the Sioux, also known as the Dakota.

We Are the Many: A Picture Book of American Indians by Doreen Rappaport

This collection of short, illustrated biographies introduces readers to distinct Native Americans from several nations and their contributions to the world.



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We Asked for Nothing: The Remarkable Journey of Cabeza de Vaca by Stuart Waldman.

Learn about the journey of explorer Cabeza de Vaca as he travels through Texas and Mexico and forms many relationships with the native people along his journey.

Visions and Voices

Alice Yazzie's Year by Ramona Maher.

A book of verse describes each month of the year in Alice Yazzie's life on the Navajo reservation.

The Dark Pond by Joseph Bruchac.

Armie, an outsider who communicates better with animals than with people, is drawn to something evil in the pond near his school.

Enduring Wisdom: Sayings From Native Americans selected by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve.

A picture book of wise sayings from different individuals, tribes and time periods.

Hold Up the Sky: And Other Native American Tales From Texas and the Southern Plains by Jane Louise Curry.

A simple retelling of twenty-six stories from different tribal nations and traditions, including notes on origins and cultural sources.

The Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish by Jacqueline Briggs Martin.

In 1913 a research boat named *Fish* became trapped in the ice on an Arctic expedition. The scientists, crew and some Inupiaq people on board the ship survived using Inupiaq cultural traditions.

Touching the Distance: Native American Riddle-Poems by Brian Swann.

A collection of short riddle-poems accompanied by colorful mixed-media illustrations that contain the answer to the riddles.

1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving by Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac.

This photographic recreation of the harvest celebration by Plymouth Plantation and the Wampanoag community describes the actual three-day event and exposes the myths surrounding the celebration.