Native Americans: Learn About the Indigenous Cultures of North America
Teacher’s Guide
Grade Level 3–5

Program Description
Explore culture and history of Native American groups before European exploration.

Teacher Support

- **First Americans**
  Find out how America began as a land of tribes and how each tribe had its own customs and traditions.
  - Pause the video at 0:40 to briefly discuss what experts think about how people first arrived in North America.
  - Pause again at 1:30 to check students' comprehension.
  - Ask: How many tribes were in North America by the 1600s? What influenced where the tribes lived? In what kinds of places were Native Americans settled?
  - After viewing the end of the video, ask students to compare the tribes: What traditions did many tribes share? What unique traditions did Native American students have?

- **Trail of Tears**
  Learn details about Native American suffering as the United States took over their land.
  - Discuss with students how European settlers had come to North America and were interested in expanding their settlements.
  - Ask students to predict what kinds of conflict might arise with the Native Americans already living in the areas they wanted to take for themselves. Then play the video.
  - Pause at 1:11, and ask: What did many of the European settlers want the Native Americans to do? Were your predictions correct? How did the government try to force the Native Americans to leave?
  - Direct students' attention to the screen.
  - Ask them to name the Native American tribes whom the U.S. government wanted to force out of the Southeast.
  - Ask: Where were they to go?
  - Pause again at 2:22 to ask: How long did it take for most of the tribes to move out of the Southeast? Which tribe had fought the relocation? What did President Jackson do in response?
• Native Americans Today
  Explore what life is like for Tribal Nations in America.
  o Pause briefly at 0:43 to ask: In what kinds of places do Native Americans live today? What are reservations? What percentage of Native Americans live on reservations?
  o After the video, ask students to summarize tribal traditions: How do the Navajo tribes get help when they are sick? What festivals or other traditions do many Native Americans still observe?

  o Following the video, ask students to summarize the consequences of the Cherokee journey to the Indian Territory.