

WORLD Native American Heritage Month



Social Activity Toolkit



PRESENTED BY:



FUNDED BY:



WELCOME!

Thank you for honoring 2019 Native American Heritage Month with WORLD Channel.

The month of November is an opportunity to raise up the voices of Indigenous communities in the Americas. WORLD Channel, in partnership with Vision Maker Media, invites you to listen to the voices from Native America today through a collection of programs made by and about Native storytellers.

This Social Activity Toolkit highlights three of those programs that focus on the stories of Native Americans and their communities—and the legacy of America’s interactions with them: *Warrior Women*, *The Blackfeet Flood*, and *The People’s Protectors*.

We hope you will be moved to respond to the stories with collective social action. The activities included in this toolkit provide an easy way to participate in the national conversation happening throughout Native American Heritage Month online at **#WORLDxNAHM**.

Find more online at WorldChannel.org/Collection/Native-American-Heritage-Month.



WORLD CHANNEL is a 24/7, full-service multicast channel featuring public television’s signature nonfiction documentary, science and news programming complemented by original content from emerging producers. You can find WORLD Channel through your local PBS station and can access our programming directly on WORLDCHANNEL.ORG



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Warrior Women



During the American Indian Movement, mothers & daughters like Madonna Thunder Hawk & Marcy Gilbert fought for indigenous rights, protecting families and their way of life. *WARRIOR WOMEN* explores what it means to balance a movement with motherhood as the activist legacy is passed down from generation to generation in the face of a government that has continually met native resistance with violence.

More About The American Indian Movement

- **VISIT** the website of the Grand Governing Council of the American Indian Movement.
- **READ** about the history of Native American activism from the ZinnProject.
- **REVIEW** this New York Times article from October 2019 about the occupation of Alcatraz and use the [accompanying lesson plan](#) provided by NYT's The Learning Network.

More About Madonna Thunder Hawk

- **READ** about Madonna Thunder Hawk and other women of the American Indian Movement in an online panel from Muskrat Magazine.
- **LISTEN** to a recent podcast with Madonna Thunder Hawk and Marcella Gilbert, recorded October 2019 in Paris.
- **WATCH** a new interview with Madonna Thunder Hawk from France 24.

Airs Tuesday, November 19
9pm/8pm central

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Now approaching the age of 80, Madonna Thunder Hawk continues her leadership and vigorous activism. Does her example change your perception of the role of elders in our society? What can we learn from the way Native American elders interact with their communities?
- How would you describe the leadership shown by Indigenous women in the film? Who in your life is a Warrior Woman and what makes them so?
- What are the motivations behind Madonna Thunder Hawk's commitment to community organizing? What about Madonna's life inspires you?

Activity: Who is the Warrior Woman in your life?

The film's website offers an **amazing gallery of images**, some archival, from the film, and from events and presentations associated with the film's release. As you review these images, find a photo from your own collection that depicts a "Warrior Woman" in your life. Tell us a little about that person, including your relationship and why you selected them. Remember to include the **#WORLDxNAHM** hashtag to join the broader conversation!

The People's Protectors



Airs Monday, November 11
7pm/6pm central

More About Native Americans and Military Service:

- **VISIT** the website for the proposed National Native American Veterans Memorial from the Smithsonian; read about the new memorial in the [Salt Lake Tribune](#).
- **LEARN** more about the history of Native military service in the U.S. from American Indian Magazine.
- **LEARN** 10 facts about Native American military service.

Four Native American veterans reflect on their experiences in the military during the divisive Vietnam War and how their communities helped them carry their warrior legacy proudly. From the Marine Corps to the Navy to the US Army, veterans Valerie Barber, Art Owen, Sandy White Hawk, Vince Beyl, and civilian eyapaha (announcer) Jerry Dearly recall their memories of one of the most controversial wars in United States history.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Serving in the U.S. Military was a way for Native people to regain self-identify and self-respect in a changed world. How do you think military service accomplishes this for Native men? Why do you think Native women also chose to serve?
- Native Americans have served in the military at higher rates than most other groups. Why do you think Native men and women have served in such significant numbers?
- Does this legacy of service to our country change the way you view America's relationship with its Native peoples? Why or why not?

Activity: Celebrate a Native Hero

Meet the **Native heroes who have received the U.S. Medal of Honor** for their service, America's highest military decoration. Select one of the service members and share their story on social media; you can find photos and biographical information on the site. Remember to use the hashtag **#WORLDxNAHM**



The Blackfeet Flood



In 1964, a devastating flood tore through Montana's Blackfeet Reservation – uprooting homes, killing 31 people, and signaling the end of a way of life for many traditional families. Fifty years after the worst natural disaster in the state's history, a Blackfeet man named Butch returns home to confront the tragedy that left him an orphan at 14, and to try to remember "what it means to be Blackfeet."

Activity: Mapping Stories from the Flood: How Far Is Your Home from the Disaster?

Download the free mobile app for Android, iPhone and tablet devices to explore the stories of survival and loss from the 1964 floods. The app allows you to track the locations of the stories on Google maps and determine your distance and direction from the site of the disaster. Once you have selected a story and determined the location, use the tools to access the directions and post your driving distance from the site of the disaster as you share the story on social media, using the hashtag #WORLDxNAHM.

Airs Monday, November 25
9pm/8pm central

More About The Flood Of 1964:

- **REVIEW** the official report on the flood from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- **READ** 50th anniversary coverage of the flood from the Great Falls Tribune and the [Flathead Beacon](#) in Montana.
- **EXPLORE** a gallery of images from the flooding on the website of the Billings Gazette.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

- Americans from all walks of life are forced to confront natural disasters every year. What makes the experience of 1964 different for the Blackfeet people?
- Is there more that can be done to protect Native communities from the impacts that disasters of all kinds (natural, economic, demographic) can have on their culture?
- What some other examples of natural disasters or other significant events that have profoundly influenced and/or threatened Native cultures in the United States?



SHARE & ENGAGE

Encourage others to add their voices to the conversation by sharing links, pictures, and videos from **WORLD Channel** and this toolkit on social media.

- Remember to tag your posts with **#WORLDxNAHM**
- And link to **WorldChannel.org/Collection/Native-American-Heritage-Month**

Examples:

Three meaningful ways to participate in #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth this November: **WorldChannel.org/Collection/Native-American-Heritage-Month**. **#WORLDxNAHM**

- What is your vision for your community? **#WORLDxNAHM #VisionMakerMedia**
- How do you engage politically? **#WORLDxNAHM #NativeVote**
- What makes you resilient? **#WORLDxNAHM #TheBlackfeetFlood #MyStrength**

