

Our Own Council's Try-It: Indian Lore

Long before European settlers arrived on the shores of this continent, the Native Americans lived in harmony with nature. We have much to learn from their cultural respect, love and care for the earth. Consider this quote from Chief Seattle's address to the tribal assembly in 1854:

"Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. Teach your children . . . that the Earth is our mother. The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst and feed our children. The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath."

"This we know. The Earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

Do four activities to complete this Try-It.

1. Discover some of the Girl Scout links with Native American cultures. Three of Virginia Skyline's Outdoor Program Centers have Indian names. Find out the significance of each name. **OR** Learn the true story of "Little-Ship-Under-Full-Sail," Juliette Gordon Low's grandmother.
2. Play some traditional Indian games, like corncob darts, plumstone basket gamble or jack rabbits hit.
3. Tribes with different spoken languages could still communicate with one another by using word pictures drawn on rock or hide, or sign language. Try telling a story using one of these means, or read the story totem at the head of the Blue Trail at Massawomee.

OR

Indian children were named after animals, plants, trees or some natural occurrence that happened near the time of their birth. Let each girl choose for herself an Indian name and illustrate it using word pictures.

4. Make some traditional Indian musical instruments and use them to try out tribal dances.
5. Try out an Indian craft like weaving, basketry, leatherwork, pottery or jewelry making. Try to use some natural materials in your project.
6. Make Indian costumes and wear them to an event which celebrates the rich heritage we have received from the Native Americans.

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