
Contemporary Connections

Featured Sources

- **Case Study:** Native New Yorkers Today— Today, many people whose ancestors were from Native New York still call the area home. Discover how Native people find ways to celebrate their rich histories and keep their cultural heritage alive for future generations.

Student Tasks

- **Optional Expository Writing:** Complete an expository-writing sample explaining the ways Native New Yorkers today honor and celebrate their rich cultural history and work to keep their heritage alive for future generations.

Student Outcomes

KNOW

Native descendants of communities that engaged in trade with the Dutch are still alive and thriving.

UNDERSTAND

The unique characteristics and challenges of reaffirming tribal culture and how Native New Yorkers today celebrate their cultures by organizing events, activities and troupes.

DO

Identify, describe, and infer the characteristics of community organizing and how Native nations organize to celebrate and sustain Native cultures.



Standards

Optional Expository Writing

[CCSS: 4-5 Grade Specific Standards]

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2 & CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

[CCSS: Corresponding Anchor Standards]

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Contemporary Connections Lesson Procedures

Anticipatory Set

- Ask students to think about cultural change and continuity by asking: How do communities/cultures change over time? How do they stay the same?
- As needed, help students understand change and continuity in their own terms. Students might brainstorm examples of how their families have changed over time (i.e., movement: immigration/migration; family size; adaptation) and how they have stayed the same (i.e., sharing of family stories/histories; passing down culture through traditions and celebrations; language).
- Transition to the concept of change and continuity as it relates to this inquiry: Although the fur trade brought together two distinct cultures, Native New Yorkers adapted traditional practices of exchange with their new trade partners, the Dutch. Native exchange practices greatly shaped interactions during the early years of the fur trade, which were used to secure desired goods and in maintaining cultural value systems. Although Native New Yorkers did exchange land with the Dutch, they did so to maintain relationships and build alliances, never intending to leave their tribal homelands.
- Many people whose ancestors were from Native New York still call the area their homeland. Thousands of people belong to Native communities in New York state, while many others live among the non-Native population. Thousands more belong to tribal nations located in New Jersey, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Ontario, Canada. Today, many descendants of the Lenape call themselves Delaware. Native people and nations take pride in their cultural heritage and find ways to celebrate their rich histories.

Guided Practice and Optional Expository Writing

- Explain to students that some ways in which we can see how Native New Yorkers today celebrate their culture and work to keep their heritage alive are through the organizing of community events and activities.
- Direct students to the contemporary-connections case study, *Native New Yorkers Today*.
- After examining the images, reading the supporting text, and considering the discussion questions, students might complete an expository-writing sample about the ways Native New Yorkers today honor and celebrate their rich cultural history and work to keep their heritage alive for future generations.

