

**North Olympic Library System / Port Angeles School System**

**Social Studies CBA: Humans and the Environment**

**Prepared by Erin Sterling**

**Adare, S., Birchfield, D.L., Burgan, M., Stone, A. M., & Stout, M. (2003). *Native American Peoples*. Milwaukee, WI: Gareth Stevens Pub.**

Titles in the Native American Peoples series include Apache, Aztec, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Comanche, Cree, Mohawk, Navajo, Nez Perce, Ojibwe, Seminole, and Sioux. This is an excellent series for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders with captioned photographs from the past and the present and the same four chapters across all the books that make the books easy-to-use: (1) Origins, (2) History, (3) Traditional way of life, and (4) Today. Numerous sidebars have information such as quotations from members of the tribe, information about the language, or details about a person, place, event, or significant object. I particularly liked comparing the small map at the beginning of the traditional territories with the small map at the end of the current territories. The glossary, timeline, index, things to think about, and further resources at the end were thoughtfully organized and understandable.

**Andre, J.-A., Jumbo, S., McLeod, T., & Willett, M. (2008). *Land is our storybook*. Calgary: Fifth House.**

Four books (*We Feel Good Out Here*, *Living Stories*, *The Delta Is My Home*, *Come and Learn with Me*) out of ten total have been published in this series that focuses on the lands and people of Canada's Northwest Territories from (rarely heard) first-person

voices. Books discuss traditional practices and beliefs as well as current life, from a woman who was sent to a residential school at age seven and is now reconnecting with her Gwich'in culture to a young boy who has learned about hunting, fishing, and the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit cultures in the Delta region to the wisdom and stories of Tlicho elders told to young people. Looks at current humans and their connection with the environment and culture and includes colorful photographs and a glossary.

**Dennis, Y. W., & Hirschfelder, A. B. (2003). *Children of native America today*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Pub.**

Many books focus on the history of Native Americans, but this book discusses the lives of contemporary Native people from across the U.S. Features 25 tribes (out of 500 total) with a 2-page spread for each that has photo illustrations and information, including a sidebar of fast facts with locations of reservations/communities, population, prominent people, and tribes. Students may need help distilling how humans interact with the environment, but overall it is a great guide to contemporary Native America.

**Foster, K. (2008). *Atlas of North America*. Picture Window Books world atlases. Minneapolis, MN: Picture Window Books.**

This atlas for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders is bright, colorful, and easy-to-read with different maps of countries, landforms, bodies of water, climate, plants, animals, population, resources, and transportation. While the text is short and focuses on examples rather than being comprehensive (for example, only a few different types of plants from each ecosystem are mentioned), the maps are understandable even for beginning readers and can relate to

the First Americans series (which has no maps) when talking about where cultures live and how they interact with the environment.

**Gore, A. (2007). *An inconvenient truth: The crisis of global warming*. New York: Viking.**

An award-winner with starred reviews from School Library Journal and Booklist, this companion to Al Gore's documentary adapted for an upper elementary through high school audience is a visually stunning book with compelling information. Clearly-written language, approachable chapter divisions, understandable graphs, spectacular photographs, and a discussion of the changing earth with respect to human impact make this a must-have for any library. Relates to the Humans and the Environment CBA in discussing how the environment is changing because of human endeavors.

**Gray-Kanatiosh, B. A. (2007). *Checkerboard social studies library*. Edina, MN: ABDO Pub.**

While I generally like the First Americans series by Benchmark Books about Native American tribes better for the younger crowd since they have more comprehensive information in an easily organized format with better illustrations and further suggested research, the Native American series by ABDO Publishing covers a large amount of tribes that are not represented in any other books I found. Such tribes include Caddo, Cahuilla, Chickasaw, Creek, Gabrielino, Kiowa, Kumeyaay, Maidu, Miwok, Modoc, Mojave, Ohlone, Paiute, Pawnee, Pomo, Salinan, Ute, Yokut, and Yurok. The author is an Akwesasne Mohawk with research interests on Native tribes and the law. Easy-to-read for the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade crowd (but with pretty terribly drawn illustrations), the books

discuss life among the society, myths, war, contact with Europeans, a significant person, and the society today.

**King, D. C., & Whiteley, P. M. (2008). *First people*. New York: DK Publishing.**

Visually appealing with colorful glossy pages full of vivid photographs and illustrations of objects, places, and people from past and present, this book follows Native Americans across time in 7 chapters: (1) The beginning, (2) The emergence of Indian cultures, (3) First encounter with Europeans, (4) The European impact, (5) The contest for a continent, (6) The struggle to survive, and (7) A people's revival. Discusses tribes within the 10 basic cultural regions with a brightly colored map showing the different areas and includes information on how Native American cultures adapted to their environment in those areas. Contemporary issues and events are discussed, but not much is included about sovereignty or treaty rights and contemporary information may go over many students' heads.

**Bjorklund, R., Broida, M., Burgan, M., Casey, C., DeCapua, S., Dell, P., Hicks, D. A., & King, D. C. (2006). *First Americans*. New York: Marshall Cavendish Benchmark.**

An introductory series on Native Americans for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders of 24 tribes, with 12 more due to be published in 2010. Each book has four chapters: (1) The land and the people, (2) Daily life, (3) Beliefs, and (4) The present and future, and ends with a timeline, glossary, further resources, and index. Captioned pictures are photographs and illustrations from the past and present. Sidebars have recipes, activities, language information, traditional stories, or biographies of famous people. Not all have maps, which would be useful, and there could be more information at the end about the tribe

currently, but overall the books are engaging and straightforward and perfect for student reports.

**Landon, R., & MacDonald, D. (2008). *A Native American thought of it: Amazing inventions and innovations. We thought of it.* Toronto: Annick Press.**

Written by an Ojibway tribe member from Ontario in collaboration with a children's book author, this book explores inventions and endeavors of Native Americans in North America from the past to the present in different categories, such as shelter or hunting, with bright pictures and photos from the past and present. A map at the beginning shows the location of tribes across North America. The book relates to the CBA by explaining how such inventions depended or depends on the tribe's environment and culture, highlighting the vibrant past and contemporary culture.

**National Geographic Society. (2009). *National Geographic Student Atlas of the World.* Paw Prints.**

Comprehensive atlas for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up that has world maps of physical systems (geologic history, climate, vegetation) and human systems (political, population, languages, religions, economies, etc.) as well as continent maps of different types. Compared to other atlases, such as the Kingfisher Student Atlas or the DK School Atlas, this atlas had the best information related to humans and the environment and did not go into detail about every country, which would have been unnecessary and superfluous.

**National Geographic Society (U.S.). (2006). *National Geographic our world: A child's first picture atlas.* Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society.**

A Notable Social Studies book, this atlas for grades K-3<sup>rd</sup> uses clear language and brightly colored maps with fun illustrations. Starts off with a general overview of globes, maps, and landforms before giving specific details about each continent, including a map and photographs of people, animals, and places. Great for beginning readers to develop a basic understanding of the world through maps.

**Philip, N. (2006). *The great circle: A history of the First Nations*. New York: Clarion Books.**

Received starred reviews from Booklist and School Library Journal and is definitely for students in at least 5<sup>th</sup> grade since the text is wordy and the table of contents somewhat vague. That said, the book is a well-balanced report about the conflicts between North American Native tribes and European settlers and how they related to the difference in worldviews. Interesting discussion of how humans react and adapt to a changing environment. Primary source information, sobering historical photographs, and an engaging narrative make this book a worthwhile addition to all library collections.

**Webster, C. (2003). *Washington. From sea to shining sea*. New York: Children's Press.**

This easy-to-read book about Washington State for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders covers geography and natural resources, history, government, and people. Ends with an almanac, a timeline, a gallery of famous people, a glossary, further resources, and an index. While information about government and the state bird/flag/animal may not be as useful for the CBA, information about the land and people and the map of resources are pertinent and provide a good overview of the state. Colorful pictures and sidebars make the book readable, with one of the only downsides being that some of the maps are not labeled as well.

**ALSO:**

**2010 American Indian Youth Literature Awards**

- **Best Picture Book:** A Coyote Solstice Tale by Thomas King, illustrated by Gary Clement. Groundwood Books, 2009.
- **Best Middle School Book:** Meet Christopher: An Osage Indian Boy from Oklahoma by Genevieve Simermeyer, with photographs by Katherine Fogden, published by the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution in association with Council Oak Books, 2008
- **Best Young Adult Book:** Between the Deep Blue Sea and Me: A Novel by Lurline Wailana McGregor. Kamehameha Publishing, 2008.

**To be published in 2010:**

I didn't have a chance to look at these since most of them are not published yet and there were no reviews even, but here are titles to keep an eye out for:

- Cohen, Marina. (2010). Changing Cultural Landscapes: How Are People and Their Communities Affected by Migration and Settlement? (Investigating Human Migration and Settlement series). Crabtree Publishing Co. \$20.00
- Dalal, Anita. (2010). Native America Myths (Myths from Around the World series). Gareth Stevens Publishing. \$31.00.
- Doherty, Craig A. (2010). Southwest Indians (Native America series). Infobase Publishing Company. \$35.00.
- Doherty, Craig and Katherin M. (2010). Northwest Coast Indians (Native America series). Infobase Publishing Company. \$35.00.
- Lynch, Patricia Ann and Jeremy Roberts. (2010). Native American Mythology A to Z. Facts on File. \$45.00.
- (2010). History/(Curriculum Connections: Native North Americans series). \$39.95.
- (2010). Native America set. Chelsea House Publications. \$94.50.
- (2010). Native North Americans (Qeb Hands-On History). QEB Publishing.
- (2010). Peoples of the Southwest, West, and North/(Curriculum Connections: Native North Americans series). Brown Bear Books. \$39.95.
- (2010). Trail of Tears: American Indians (American History series). Lucent Books. \$32.45.