

Native Voices: Unveiling the Myths Behind the Headdress, Moccasins and Tipi
March 4, 2009

FORUM GUIDE

QUESTIONS/TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED:

1. What are common stereotypes or misconceptions encountered as American Indian?
 - All Natives get to go to school for free
 - Indians are drunks/alcoholics.
 - Indians lived in tipi's
 - Indians are dead, Americans killed them all in the 1800's
 - Indians don't smile, always look serious
 - All Indian tribes are rich because they have casinos
 - All Indians are lazy, just sit at home and collect checks'
 - All Indians look the same, brown skinned with straight black hair

2. Harmful everyday sayings:
 - "Sit like Indians"
 - "You act like a bunch of wild Indians"
 - "Let's pow-wow..." when referring to conferencing or meeting.
 - "You act like a bunch of wild Indians"
 - "You're an Indian giver"
 - "Too many chiefs, not enough Indians"

3. What are some phrases/words you think are most offensive to you as a Native American?
4. How are Indian Mascots harmful to Native Americans?
5. Do American Indians receive any reparations from government?
6. Explanation of the associations with American Indians as alcoholics or being dependent on welfare (where do these come from).
7. What can we do (Native Americans and allies for Native Americans) when we hear or see harmful stereotypes? – share your personal experiences.

In addition to the above questions and topics of interest, the forum will specifically address issues of Indian traditional dress and practices, the Bering Strait Theory, status of federally recognized tribes as sovereign, and the practice of generalizing across tribes or tokenism.

Turn over to view Reading List

RECOMMENDED READING LIST

American Indians: Stereotypes and Realities by Devon A. Mihesuah

Black Elk Speaks Being the Life Story of a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux (as told to John G. Neihardt).

Blood Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations by Charles Wilkinson

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee A. Brown

Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto by Vine Deloria Jr (Lakota)

Dzáni Yázhí Naazbaa'/Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home: A Story of the Navajo Long Walk by Evangeline Parsons Yazzie (Diné), Color paintings by Irving Toddy (Diné), Navajo translation by the author.

For Indigenous Eyes Only: A Decolonization Handbook by Angela C. Wilson and Michael Yellow Bird.

Moon Dash Warrior: The Story of an American Indian in Vietnam, a Marine from the Land of the Lumbee by Delano Cummings.

Powwow: Images along the Red Road; Ben Marra, editor

Raising Ourselves: A Gwich'in Coming of Age Story from the Yukon River by Velma Wallis.

Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie (1995).

Rising Fawn and the Fire Mystery by Awiakta, Marilou (Cherokee), color illustrations by Beverly Bringle (Choctaw)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene)

The Arrow Over the Door by Joseph Bruchac. 1998, b/w illustrations; Abenaki.

The Scalpel and the Silver Bear by Lori Arviso Alvord, MD

The Winona LaDuke Reader: A Collection of Essential Writings by Winona LaDuke