Best-Selling Native American Books and Resources for K-12

Ojibwe Shoulder Bag Activity Kit
Introduces Ojibwe culture, history, and arts, both past and present, and honors the story of the bandolier bag artist who created the kit’s pre-printed design. Created in collaboration with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Grades 2-12
$130
mnhs.org/shoulderbag

Bowwow Powwow
BRENDA J. CHILD
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JONATHAN THUNDER, RETOLD IN OJIBWE BY GORDON JOURDAIN
Grades K-5
$17.95 Hardcover 32 pages 978-1-68134-077-7
The best days of summer end at the powwow, but Windy Girl takes the revelry of the gathering one step further, into a dreamworld where the dancers and singers are dogs. 2020 American Indian Youth Literature Award winner for Picture Book, 2019 Cooperative Children’s Book Center Best of the Year Choices, 2018 American Indians in Children’s Literature Best Books of 2018. Bilingual: English and Ojibwe

Josie Dances
DENISE LAJIMODIERE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANGELA ERDRICH
Grades K-5
$17.95 Hardcover 32 pages 978-1-68134-207-8
An Ojibwe girl practices her dance steps, gets help from her family, and is inspired by the soaring flight of Migizi, the eagle, as she prepares for her first powwow.

Hungry Johnny
CHERYL MINNEMA
ILLUSTRATIONS BY WESLEY BALLINGER
Grades EC-2
$17.95 Hardcover 32 pages 978-0-87351-926-7
At the community feast, observing the bounty of festive foods and counting the numerous elders yet to be seated, Johnny learns to be patient and respectful despite his growling tummy.

The Forever Sky
THOMAS PEACOCK
ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANNETTE S. LEE
Grades K-5
$17.95 Hardcover 32 pages 978-1-68134-098-2
Brothers look to the stars and spin stories, some inspired by Uncle, some of their own making. The best one involves their grandmother and her place in the forever sky.

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Students use critical-thinking skills as they examine images of primary sources, gaining new perspectives about historical people and events.

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- Teacher’s guide with additional context, guiding questions for each source, and activity suggestions

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Northern Lights: The Stories of Minnesota’s Past

Dave Kenney

Minnesota Studies curriculum for 6th grade social studies


mnhs.org/northernlights

Interactive eBook includes narration in English by many Minnesotans, including Ojibwe and Dakota speakers, as well as many videos.

K-12 CURRICULUM PRODUCTS

Our Home: Native Minnesota

The Creator’s Game: A Story of Baaga’adowe/Lacrosse

Art Coulson
Illustrations by Robert Desjardlait

Grades 3-5
$6.95 PB 48 pages
978-0-87351-909-0
$3.99 e-book 48 pages
978-0-87351-936-6

Eleven-year-old Travis Skinaway learns about his Native American culture and history as he practices the Creator’s game, lacrosse.

The Good Path: Ojibwe Learning and Activity Book for Kids

Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri

Grades 3-6
$19.95 PB 128 pages
978-0-87351-783-6

Kids of all cultures journey through time with the Ojibwe people as their guide to the Good Path and its universal lessons of courage, cooperation, and honor.

Four Hills of Life: Ojibwe Wisdom

Thomas Peacock and Marlene Wisuri

Grades 3-6
$19.95 PB 120 pages
978-0-87351-828-4

Written by an Ojibwe elder, this learning and activity book describes the journey taken through life by previous generations of Ojibwe living on Madeline Island and its relevance today.

The Creator’s Game

The Good Path

Primary Source Packets

Ten to choose from, including:
- Native Minnesota: Dakota & Ojibwe Homeland
- American Indian Termination and Relocation
- Objects of the Fur Trade
- World War I: American Experiences of War
- Data of the Progressive Era

Our Home: Native Minnesota

Permanent exhibit at the Minnesota History Center

Through artifacts, photographs, and first-person stories, students learn stories of survival, resiliency, and adaptation that show how Minnesota’s Ojibwe and Dakota communities have retained cultural practices, teachings, and values—as well as an essential connection to their homeland.

mnhs.org/ourhome
Travel the powwow trail with an Anishinaabe family, the Downwinds of Red Lake, as they gather with relatives and friends to lift up the traditions of their people through ceremonies and dances.

A compelling biography for middle level readers that traces the life of the Dakota leader Taoyateduta (Little Crow) and his role in the US-Dakota War of 1862.

Illustrated with color and historic black-and-white photographs, artwork, and maps, it is a rich and magical exploration of her own identity and her family’s powerful Native American past.

A powerful, insider’s history of the first decade of the American Indian Movement.

A memoir by an Ojibwe man who recalls with haunting clarity the years that followed a state orphanage in the 1930s and the brutal farm indenture that followed. Razor’s stark and often chilling story, devoid of self-pity, recalls with haunting clarity the years that he, like the locust, patiently waited to awaken and emerge. Addresses high school English standards.

Through transcendent prose, an Ojibwe man chronicles his survival of abuse and bigotry at a state orphanage in the 1930s and the brutal farm indenture that followed. Razor’s stark and often chilling story, devoid of self-pity, recalls with haunting clarity the years that he, like the locust, patiently waited to awaken and emerge. Addresses high school English standards.

More than one hundred stereotype-debunking questions—thoughtful, awkward, and searching—answered with solid information, humor, and compassion.

An intricate narrative of the Dakota people over the centuries in their traditional homelands and the stories behind the profound connections that hold true today.

How making treaties for land cessions with Native American nations transformed human relationships to the land and became a profitable family business.
Fort Snelling at Bdote:
A Brief History
PETER DECARLO

Grades 9-12
$14.95 PB 96 pages
978-1-68134-171-2

A primer on the complex and contested history of Minnesota’s premier historical site.

Original Local:
Indigenous Foods, Stories, and Recipes from the Upper Midwest
HEID E. ERDRICH

Grades 7-12
$24.95 PB 272 pages
978-0-87351-894-9

A celebration of intensely local foods on a spectrum spanning traditional Native American treatments and creative contemporary fusion.

The Dakota Prisoner of War Letters: Dakota Kaskapi Okicize Wowapi
CLIFFORD CANKU AND MICHAEL SIMON

Grades 9-12
$27.95 PB 256 pages
978-0-87351-873-4

Fifty extraordinary letters written by Dakota men imprisoned after the US-Dakota War of 1862 give direct witness to a harsh and painful history shared by Minnesotans today.

Akawe Niwii-tibaajim
EDITED BY ANTON TREUER AND MICHAEL SULLIVAN SR
ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEVE PREMO

Grades 8-12+
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ILLUSTRATIONS BY WESLEY BALLINGER

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FREDERIC BARAGA AND JOHN D. NICHOLS

Grades 7-12
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