

Teaching Native American Students in a Multicultural World

Introduction

This book is written to aid you, the reader, in the task of teaching Native American students. Throughout the book, you will find a variety of topics that are relevant to teaching in this unique and challenging environment.

In the first chapter, we will discuss the many factors that make Native American education unique. This includes the historical roots of Native American education, the challenges faced by Native American students, and the importance of cultural preservation. We will also discuss the role of tribal governments in education and provide some best practices for teaching Native American students.

In the second chapter, we will take a closer look at Native American culture and history. We will discuss the diversity of Native American tribes, key concepts in Native American culture, and the impact of colonization on Native American education. We will also explore the importance of storytelling and oral tradition and discuss how Native American art can be used in the classroom.

In the third chapter, we will focus on creating a supportive learning environment for Native American students. This includes building relationships with Native American families and communities, incorporating Native American culture into the classroom, encouraging Native American students to succeed, and addressing the needs of students with disabilities. We will also examine the role of technology in Native American education.

The fourth chapter introduces the concept of culturally responsive teaching. We will discuss the following:

what it is, the benefits it can have for Native American students, how to implement it in the classroom, and resources that are available to help teachers implement culturally responsive teaching. We will also discuss some of the challenges that teachers may face when implementing culturally responsive teaching.

In the fifth chapter, we will discuss the topics of language and literacy development. We will cover the importance of Native American languages and the challenges involved in teaching them. We will also provide some effective strategies for teaching Native American languages and discuss the importance of promoting literacy in Native American communities. Finally, we will explore the role of Native American literature in education.

Book Description

A comprehensive guide for educators of Native American students, this book offers a wealth of practical strategies and resources to address the unique challenges and opportunities of teaching in this diverse and vibrant community.

Inside, you'll find in-depth exploration of topics such as:

- The historical roots of Native American education and the impact of colonization
- The importance of cultural preservation and the role of tribal governments in education
- Best practices for creating a supportive learning environment for Native American students
- Culturally responsive teaching methods and strategies for incorporating Native American culture and history into the curriculum

- Effective approaches to language and literacy development, including teaching Native American languages and promoting literacy in Native American communities
- Culturally appropriate assessment practices and the challenges of assessing Native American students
- The latest trends and innovations in Native American education, including the role of technology

With its comprehensive coverage and expert insights, **Teaching Native American Students in a Multicultural World** is an essential resource for educators, administrators, and policymakers working to improve the educational outcomes of Native American students.

Chapter 1: The Uniqueness of Native American Education

Historical Roots of Native American Education

The history of Native American education is a long and complex one, dating back to the arrival of European settlers in North America. In the early days, Native Americans were often taught by missionaries, who sought to convert them to Christianity. However, these efforts were often met with resistance, as Native Americans were reluctant to give up their traditional beliefs and practices.

In the 19th century, the United States government began to take a more active role in Native American education. In 1819, Congress passed the Civilization Fund Act, which provided funding for the education of Native Americans. This act led to the establishment of a number of boarding schools, where Native American

children were taken away from their families and forced to learn English and Christianity.

The boarding school system was a traumatic experience for many Native American children. They were often subjected to physical and emotional abuse, and they were forced to give up their traditional languages and cultures. As a result, many Native Americans grew up feeling alienated from their own communities.

In the 1960s and 1970s, there was a growing movement for Native American self-determination. This movement led to the passage of a number of laws that gave Native American tribes more control over their own education. As a result, many Native American tribes have established their own schools, where students can learn about their traditional culture and language.

Today, Native American education is still facing a number of challenges. However, there has been

significant progress in recent years. Native American students are now more likely to graduate from high school and college than they were in the past. And they are also more likely to be employed and have higher incomes.

Chapter 1: The Uniqueness of Native American Education

Challenges Faced by Native American Students

Native American students face a number of challenges that can make it difficult for them to succeed in school. These challenges include:

- **Poverty:** Many Native American families live in poverty, which can make it difficult for them to provide their children with the resources they need to succeed in school. For example, they may not be able to afford a computer or internet access, which are essential for many school assignments.
- **Cultural differences:** Native American students may come from cultures that are very different from the dominant culture in the United States. This can make it difficult for them to adjust to

school and to understand the expectations of their teachers. For example, Native American students may be more accustomed to a cooperative learning style, while schools often emphasize individual achievement.

- **Discrimination:** Native American students may also face discrimination from their teachers and peers. This can make them feel unwelcome and unsafe in school, which can lead to poor academic performance. For example, a study by the National Center for Education Statistics found that Native American students are more likely to be suspended or expelled from school than students of other races.
- **Lack of role models:** Native American students may also lack role models who can show them that it is possible to succeed in school and in life. This can make it difficult for them to believe in themselves and to set high goals for themselves. For example, a study by the National Indian

Education Association found that Native American students are less likely to have a college degree than students of other races.

These are just some of the challenges that Native American students face. Despite these challenges, there are many Native American students who are succeeding in school and in life. These students are showing the world that it is possible to overcome the challenges and to achieve their dreams.

Chapter 1: The Uniqueness of Native American Education

The Importance of Cultural Preservation

Cultural preservation is vital for Native American communities, as it allows them to maintain their unique identities, languages, traditions, and values. When Native American culture is preserved, it helps to strengthen the community and provides a sense of belonging for its members. Cultural preservation also helps to educate non-Native Americans about the rich history and traditions of Native American peoples.

One way that Native American culture can be preserved is through the teaching of Native American languages. Native American languages are a vital part of Native American culture, and they play an important role in the transmission of traditional knowledge and values. When Native American languages are taught in schools, it helps to ensure that future generations of

Native Americans will be able to communicate with their elders and learn about their culture.

Another way to preserve Native American culture is through the promotion of Native American arts and crafts. Native American arts and crafts are a beautiful and unique expression of Native American culture. They can be used to decorate homes, offices, and other public spaces. They can also be sold to generate income for Native American artists and craftspeople.

Finally, Native American culture can be preserved through the teaching of Native American history. Native American history is a rich and complex story that is often overlooked in traditional history books. When Native American history is taught in schools, it helps to educate students about the true history of the United States and the role that Native Americans have played in shaping it.

Cultural preservation is an important part of Native American education. By preserving their culture,

Native Americans can maintain their unique identities, strengthen their communities, and educate non-Native Americans about their rich history and traditions.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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