

NATIVE AMERICAN VOICES

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• Essential Question:

• What makes an American?

• You will hear the word **native** many times during this unit, so let's go ahead and define the word.

• Use <u>Merriam-Webster</u> to define the term *native*. According to the definition, are you native to a particular place?



• Download <u>Unit 1 Notes</u>. This is a helpful working document that you will update and save each time you use it. You will take your unit notes on this throughout the unit, which will enable you to have another resource to study for your Unit 1 test. • Some of you are native to our great state of Alabama while others are native to a different place.

• Whether you live in your native land or not, your roots are filled with past events, personal memories, and vivid accounts of what you experienced.

• Through the exploration of Native American literature, you will learn the importance of recording your own family's history. • During the course of this unit, you will be discovering new and old things about your culture and personal heritage in a thematic project called "Circle of Stories." You will learn more about this later.

• Unit 1 is a study of *Native Voices*. You will be learning who the first Americans were and reading their literature.

It's all Creek to me

It's all Creek to <u>me text</u> version Open It's all Creek to me in a new tab

Origin of Native Americans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EBknU7D10I

- Lesson Objectives--
- Following successful completion of this lesson, students will be able to:
- Contextualize the evolution of American literature
- Analyze various myths and folklore from the Native American culture
- Create symbolic stories
- Develop dramatic characters
- The above objectives correspond with the Alabama Course of Study: <u>English Language</u> <u>Arts, Grade 10</u> objectives: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 20, 22, 22a, 22b, 22f, 23, 23a, 24, 29b, 33, 40, 42.

• Learn

• Answer the <u>Unit 1 Notes</u> as you review the lesson.

• Writers

• <u>Writers text version</u> | <u>Open</u> <u>Writers in a new tab</u>

THE THUNDER HELPER Creek

Once there was a boy who had no mother or father. All day long he would take long walks and play by himself. One day as the boy was walking along the creek, he heard a noise like Thunder. When he looked up, he saw a Tie-snake and the Thunder having a fight. The Tie-snake called to the boy saying, "Kill the Thunder, and I will tell you everything I know.

I know all the things that are under the earth." Just as the boy was putting an arrow to his bow, he heard a loud noise. It was the Thunder speaking to him, "Boy, boy, don't pay any attention to the Tie-snake, I, Thunder, can help you to be brave, strong and wise. Shoot your arrow at the Tie-snake."

The boy shot at the Tie-Snake, killed him, and the Tie-snake fell into the creek. Now the Thunder made the boy strong and wise, but the Thunder told the boy that he must never, never tell anyone that the Thunder had made him strong, brave and wise. The boy became the best hunter in the village. He was good and kind to all of the people. When he talked, the people listened. In the cold time, the people were very hungry, for there was no food and very little corn.

Many days passed, and the boy stood before them and said, "Last night the owl in the tree talked to me. The owl told me to come to his tree. He told me there was a bear sleeping in a hole in the ground." The young men of the village laughed at him for saying the owl talked to him, but the old men did not laugh for they knew the boy was wise. One of the young men did not laugh. He told the boy he would go hunt the bear with him. He knew the people were hungry.

The young man and boy went to the tree with the owl in it. By the tree, in a hole in the ground, they found the bear sleeping. They killed the bear and took it back to the village. The people were happy to have so much meat to eat. Now, when the boy said something, the people found what he said was true. The time came when the men of the village went to fight. Many men were killed. The women were so afraid; they knew the enemy would come and burn the village.

The boy stood before the women and said, "Do not be afraid. I will go and kill the enemy. They will not burn our village." The boy went into the woods and found the men of the village. He said to them, "Stay where you are. I will go to meet the enemy and kill them. Never again will the enemy try to burn our village." The men watched the boy as he went to meet the enemy. They saw the Thunder and the Lightening. The Thunder and Lightening came down upon the enemy. All the enemy were killed. The men waited in the woods for a long time.

The boy never came back. No one in the village ever saw him again. When the old men hear the Thunder and see the Lightening, they know what to think. They are now wise in many things. They are sure that they hear the boy call in the Thunder, and when the Lightening illuminates the sky, the old men are sure they can see the face of the boy.

Circle of Stories

• <u>Circle of Stories text</u> <u>version | Open Circle of Stories</u> <u>in a new tab</u>

• Try It

• Five Sacred Medicines

• In this lesson you have read about Native American Writers and why it is important that they pass down their stories. Now, read or listen to "<u>The Five Sacred Medicines</u>" as told by Raymond Keeswood, Navajo. When you finish, answer the following questions:

• <u>Five Sacred Medicines text version</u> | <u>Open Five</u> <u>Sacred Medicines in a new tab</u>

• Tasks

• Using what you have learned in this lesson about Native American writers, develop your own myth. Include authentic details to help your story. You should attempt to mimic the style and form of some of the myths read in this lesson. You may wish to explain creation, natural occurrences like volcanoes, tornadoes, the colors of a sunset, differences in climate, etc. The tale should be one page in length.

- Use the <u>1.01 Myth Planning Sheet</u> to help you get started. You will submit this along with your finished story. Use the <u>example</u> for information on terms and modeled guidance.
- Make sure you can answer "yes" to the following questions.
- Does your story follow a clear plot development?
- Does your story mimic the style and form of Native American myths?
- Does your story include dialogue?
- Does your story have interesting characters?
- Does your story follow the conventions of Native American myths?
- Does your story have a moral or lesson?

 See the grading rubric for additional information on how you will be scored on this *After you have proofread your document for grammar and spelling assignment errors, submit your assignment!