

Shifting Power on the Plains
HIST 563
Cathron Cole O'Connor
7-19-10

“Stereotyping and Native Americans Today”

Grades 4 and 5

Rationale: This 3-day unit is to be used following a study of Native American Indigenous peoples. It will raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of stereotyping and how stereotyping negatively affects Native Americans—and others. Students will also learn about contemporary Native Americans and their contributions to American life, both on a local and national stage.

Student Objectives:

Students will be able to define and give an example of “stereotyping,” and will understand why it is hurtful to others.

Students will become acquainted with Native American men and women who are known locally and nationally.

Students will understand that contemporary native Nebraskans are just like other Nebraskans and lead lives similar to their own.

Materials Needed:

*Enough small, wrapped packages for each student in the class. About half of them should be unattractively wrapped in newspaper, grocery sack, toilet paper, etc...with the other half wrapped in shiny, sparkly, attractive paper with bows, etc... The contents of the packages should vary using items such as candy, small prizes, money, as well as items such as rocks, grass, bark; anything undesirable. Each package should be numbered.

*Slips of paper with corresponding numbers should be placed in a bowl.

*Chart paper

*Stickie notes at least 3x3 in size

*Examples of stereotyping from magazines, newspapers, the Internet, etc...

*PowerPoint slide shows, "Native Americans Today," and "Stereotyping: Don't Get the Wrong Idea."

*Bookmarked websites available for projection to a screen in the classroom

*Student response journals

Day 1:

Place the various wrapped packages on a table in the front of the room so everyone can see them as they enter the classroom.

Begin PowerPoint slide show "Stereotyping: Don't Get the Wrong Idea."

1. Have students draw a numbered slip of paper from the bowl. One-by-one have them go to the table to get their package.
2. Ask students if they can tell what will be in their packages. Ask them to write their guesses on the Stickie notes. After they guess, ask them why they think their guess will be correct.
3. Record each student's response on overhead, chart paper, or board.
4. Ask them to open their packages. Record their responses on the chart paper.
5. Talk about the expectations they had and the feelings they had when they discovered the contents of the packages.
6. Move to slide 3 of the PowerPoint.
Did the inside of the package match the outside? Explain that they used stereotypes when guessing about what they *thought* might be in their package.

7. Brainstorm together and ask them to address the question: What can happen if we look at others in the same way we looked at the packages? Possible answers may include: it prevents us from really getting to know people; it keeps us from seeing the good things about people; it causes us to treat others in ways we wouldn't want to be treated; it leads us to see people in a prejudiced way.

8. PowerPoint slide 4- Stereotyping groups of people.

9. Give students Stickie notes and ask them to look at each category and write down a stereotype about that group of people. Discuss the following questions with students:

*How do you feel about the words on the Stickie notes?

*Were positive and/or negative stereotypes written?

*Are the words used really true about *all* people in that group?

*What have you learned about stereotyping that you will remember?

10. During the last 10 minutes of class, the students will write a page in their journals about what they have thought about and learned about stereotyping today.

11. Extra Credit Opportunity: Listen to friends, watch T.V., or look at a magazine to find stereotypes and bring them to class to share.

Day 2: Stereotyping and Native Americans

Disney's "Peter Pan" should be bookmarked ahead of time or it can be accessed from the PowerPoint http://www.cracked.com/article_15677_9-most-racist-disney-characters.html

1. Review the definition of stereotyping and ask if anyone has brought an example of stereotyping with them to class. Use examples of stereotyping you have pre-chosen from magazines, websites, etc...to generate "A Web of Stereotyping." Students copy the web into their notebooks to create their own webs.

2. Introduce the effect of stereotyping on Native Americans using slide 6 of the PowerPoint. Students may not have seen “Peter Pan” but they probably will be familiar with the stereotypical Indian characters. Play the video clip.

Some words on the website aren’t appropriate for students; however, the Disney clip (#3) is the one to focus this lesson on.

3. After the clip, have students make another web of adjectives in their response journal describing the Native American characters that were shown in “Peter Pan.”

4. PowerPoint slide 7. During the last 10 minutes of class, have students write about what they want others to know about them that is special and unique.

Day 3:

1. Open PowerPoint slide show “Native Americans Today.”

2. Explain to students that this slide show is about contemporary Native American people. While they are watching, they need to notice the various jobs and careers these people have.

3. Discuss the questions on slide 10.

4. Ask the students to remember the first day when they saw the packages for the first time. Tell them the next time they meet a new person to think of the packages. Sometimes people are very different than they appear.

5. Ask them to remember the next time they see a negative stereotype of someone to once again, remember the packages. Each person is unique and deserves to be treated as a special, individual--not like a copy of someone else. Just treat others as you would like to be treated!

6. This would be a good time to get out and share excellent non-fiction literature you have previously assembled about Native American life today. A great time to close the unit and have fun sharing the books together—without stereotypes!

Resources for further exploration:

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska www.poncatribene.org/

The State of Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs-
<http://www.indianaffairs.state.ne.us/>

The National Museum of the American Indian- <http://www.nmai.si.edu/>
For students and teachers. Includes many pictures of artifacts and special exhibitions.

My World: Young Native Americans Today, is a non-fiction series for 9-12 year-olds published by the National Museum of the American Indian. Each book in the series focuses on a young Native American whose story provides a look at modern Native culture while celebrating tribal histories and traditions. Pictures, Glossary included.

North American Indians Today, is a series for middle and high school-age students. A brief overview of tribal history introduces chapters on government, religion, social structure, arts, culture, and hopes for the future.

Children of Native America Today by Yvonne Wakim Dennis and Arlene Hirschfelder focuses on each area of the country including Hawaii and Alaska and contains many excellent photos of Native children.

Extraordinary American Indians by Susan Avery and Linda Skinner Some 4th graders and most 5th graders should be able to read the amazing and inspiring stories of these incredible people, many of whom we've never heard of, though their tales are desperately important. It moves through time from a Navajo named Pope, who died around 1692, and who led a revolt against the Spanish. It ends with stories of the lives of Louise Erdrich and Michael Dorris--both contemporary writers who are still alive today. "For Further Reading" contains lists of many resources listed by category.

Powwow by George Acona

Features a northern plains powwow in Crow Fair, Montana. Acona's beautiful pictures reflect the beauty of a powwow.

Stereotyping: Don't Get the Wrong Idea



What is in That Package?

1. On the Stickers note provided, write down what you think is in your package.
2. Put your name on the Stickers note and place it on the corner of your desk.
3. **TIME TO UNWRAP!**
4. *Were you correct about what was in your package???*

Stereotypes

- Were all the presents that looked the same all alike?
- All those _____ people are the same.
- Is this a fair way to judge people?

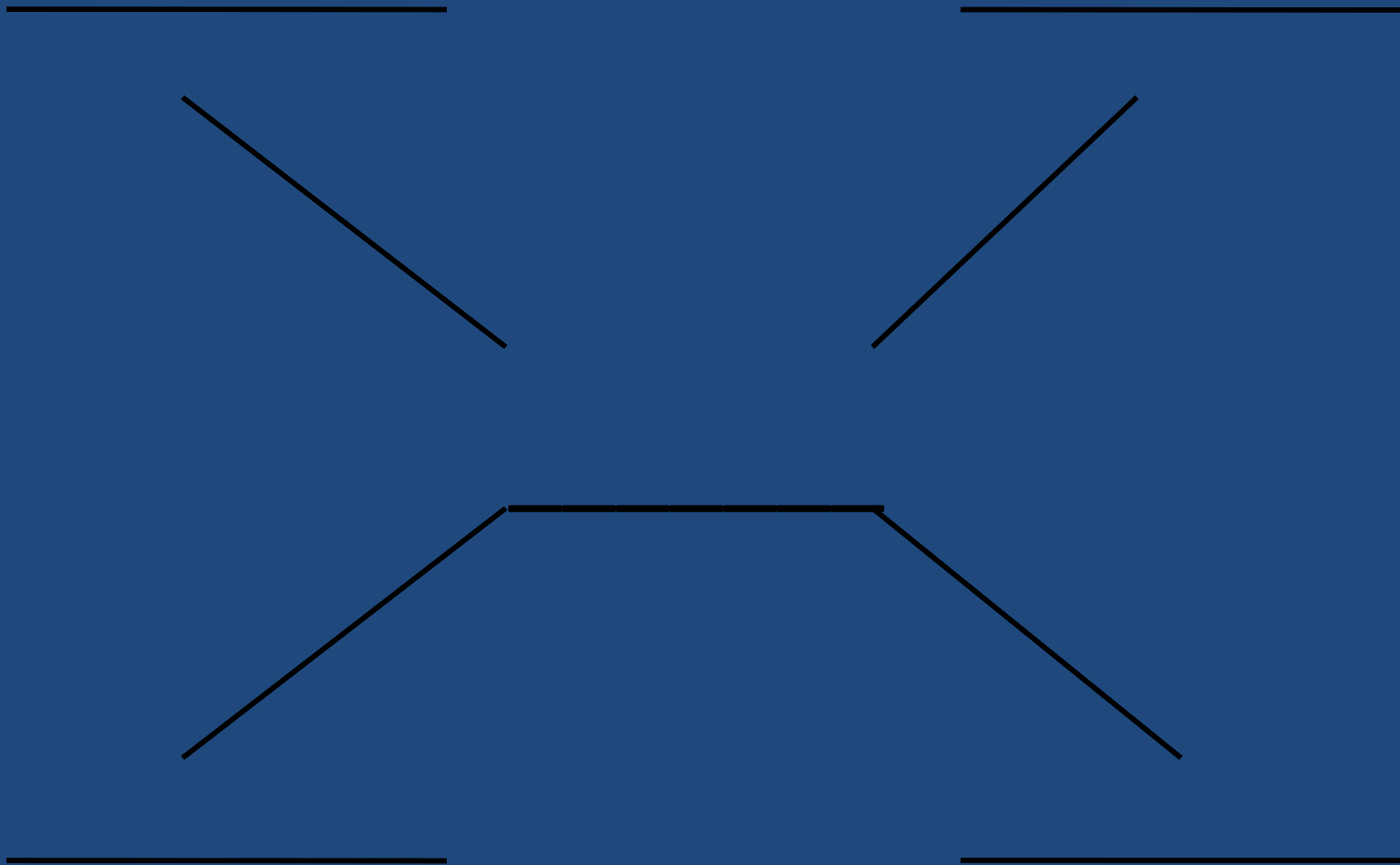
Teachers

Parents

Elderly People

Teenagers

A Web of Stereotyping



Hurtful Images

Stereotyping happens when a whole group of people is described in the same ways. It is wrongly thought that all these ideas are true about all the people in that group.



*Are you exactly the same as everyone who looks like you?

*Have you ever seen a TV show or cartoon that makes fun of a certain group of people?

*Watch the following cartoon.

*Think of some words that describe the Indians in the video clip. Are they positive or negative?

http://www.cracked.com/article_15677_the-9-most-racist-disney-characters.html

What About You?

Everybody is different, or unique. What a person looks like on the outside has nothing to do with what is inside! Every person has special talents, special qualities...

What are yours??

Native Americans Today



Phillip Martin, a Choctaw
Dia Molnar, a Navajo
Harvey Pratt, a Cheyenne



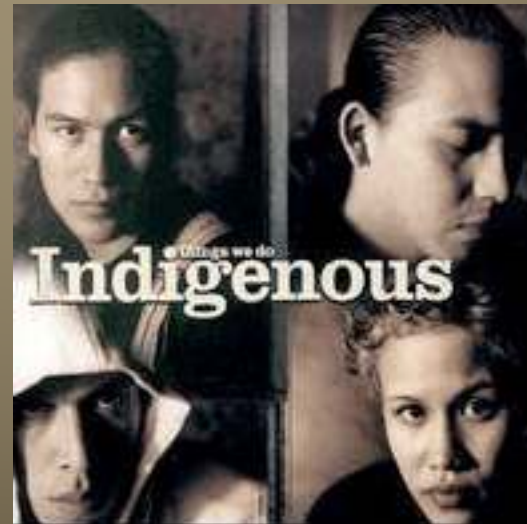
Robbie Robertson, a Mohawk
Mary Tittle, an Apache
John Herrington, a Chickasaw



Jamie Oxendine, a Lumbee
Joe Shirley, a Navajo
Lori Piestewa, a Hopi



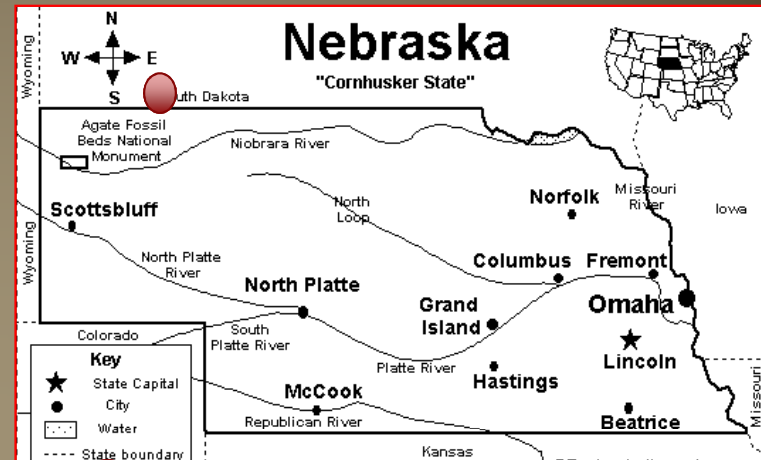
Native Americans Today




Native Americans Today



Tina Merdanian is Director of Institutional Relations at Red Cloud School Indian School in Pine Ridge, S.D.



 Pine Ridge, South Dakota

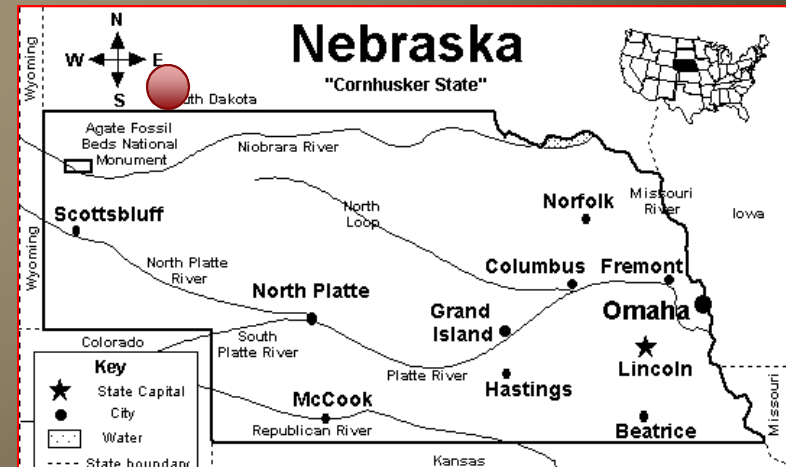
<http://www.redcloudschool.org/>


Native Americans Today



Myrtle Cedar Face is the Manager of the Heritage Center Gift Shop located at the Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Business



 Pine Ridge, South Dakota

<http://www.redcloudschool.org/museum/giftshop.htm>

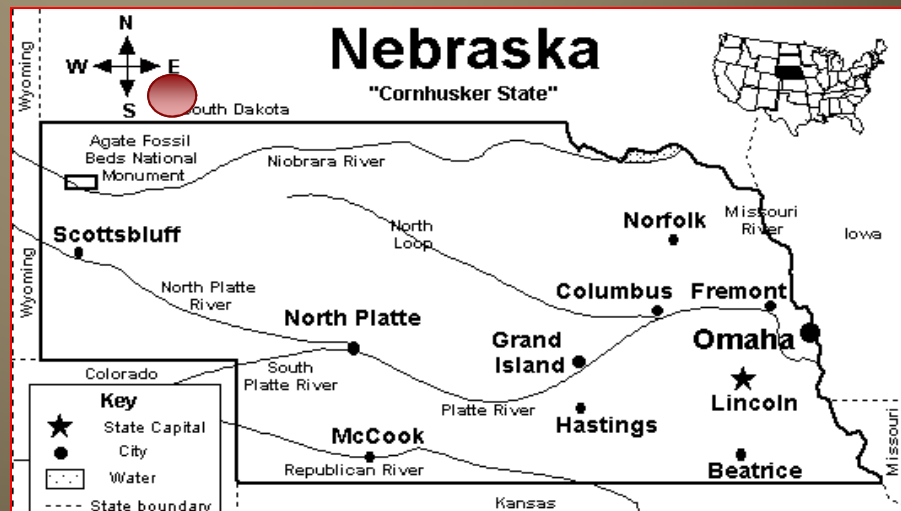
Native Americans Today



Education & Leadership



Robert Cook is the Principal of Pine Ridge High School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Robert has worked hard to keep students from dropping out of school.



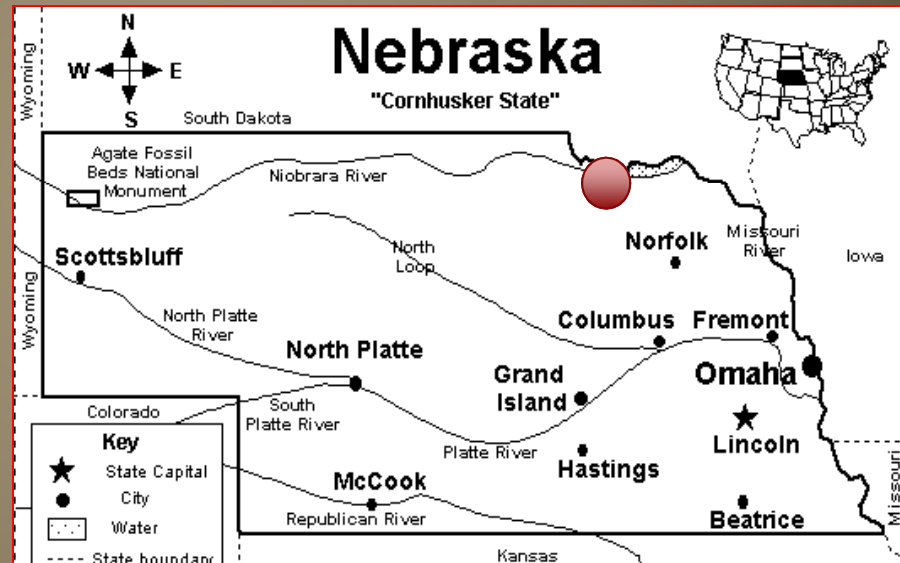
Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota


Native Americans Today



Larry Wright is the Chairman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and was a teacher at Lincoln North Star High School and at Lincoln High School. He has a Master's Degree in Historical Studies and now helps other teachers finish their Master's Degrees.

Education & Leadership



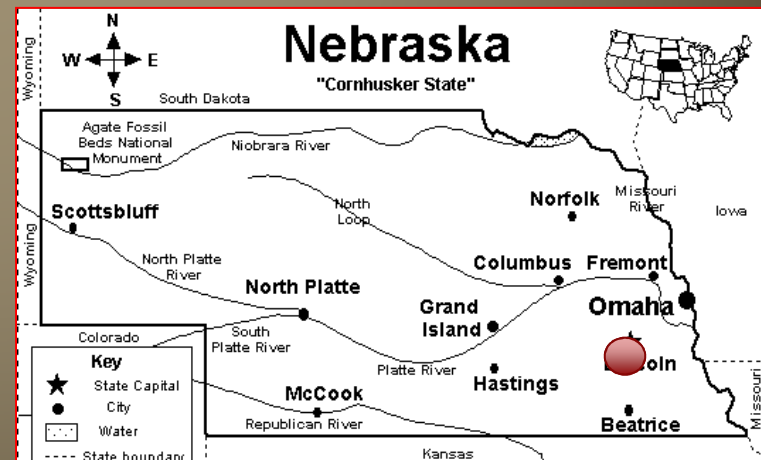
 The Ponca Tribal Headquarters are in Niobrara, Nebraska

Native Americans Today



Judi M. gaiashkibos is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs. Her job is to improve communication between the four headquarter tribes of the Omaha, Ponca, Santee Sioux and Winnebago Tribes and the State of Nebraska. She is a member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

Government & Leadership



Judi works at the capital in Lincoln.

Native Americans Today



Oglala Lakota actor, Chaske Spencer, plays the werewolf, Sam, in the “Twilight” movies.



Entertainment



The members of the band “Indigenous” are from South Dakota’s Yankton Indian Reservation.

Native Americans Today



Winnebago Powwow Winnebago, Nebraska

Native American children love to participate in many activities. Cultural celebrations like powwows are times for them to enjoy their heritage.



Native Americans Today



Are any of the people you have seen in this slide show like the characters in the “Peter Pan” movie clip?

What are some of the different jobs you saw in the slide show that Native Americans have?

Will you feel differently about meeting new people after this unit?