



# NATIVE TRUTHS

## OUR VOICES OUR STORIES

### TEACHER REFERENCE GUIDE

# Native Truths

In [\*Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories\*](#), we invite you to connect with diverse Native stories and the individuals who share them. Dive deeply into current issues, like threats to Native land and the rights of tribal nations to govern themselves. Celebrate the thriving, modern cultures of today's Native communities.

[The Field acknowledges that it's built on Native land.](#) We recognize that the region we now call Chicago was the traditional homelands of many Indigenous nations, and remains home to diverse Native people today. For this reason, one section of *Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories* will always focus on Chicago's Native community. Meanwhile, other galleries will rotate over the years to share new stories, experiences, and perspectives from across the United States and Canada.

*Native Truths: Our Voices, Our Stories* [was created](#) with the guidance of an advisory council of 11 Native American scholars and museum professionals, and in partnership with 130 collaborators representing over 105 Tribes. We seek to create a space for Native people from Chicago and across the United States and Canada to share their experiences in their own voices.

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## 5 Native Truths

These are listed in the exhibit and all displays relate to one or more of the statements

1. Our ancestors connect us to the past, present, and future.
2. Native people are everywhere.
3. Museum collecting and exhibition practices have deeply harmed native communities.
4. We have the right to govern ourselves.
5. The land shapes who we are

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## Big Questions

These questions can be answered before, during, and/or after a field trip

- What is storytelling?
- Why is it important to tell your own story?
- How is the storytelling in Native Truths different from other exhibits' approaches to Native history, culture, or life?
- Why is it important to acknowledge that we are on native land?
- How does expressing yourself through art affirm and maintain identities?
- How can someone show a connection to their community history? Culture?

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## Helpful Links

These are featured in the exhibit

- Native Young People in Chicago: <https://vimeo.com/711845820>
- Iroquois Beadwork with Karen Ann Hoffman: [PBS Video](#)
- Lakota Hip Hop Music with Frank Waln: [Frank Waln Video](#)
- Stomp Dancing: [Video Muscogee Creek Festival](#)
- Scott Shoemaker on Language Revitalization: [Miami Tribe of Oklahoma](#)
- Activism in Chaco Canyon: [Video with Diné Activist Cheyenne Antonio](#)
- Removal, Relocation Infographic [Video](#)
- Deborah Yepa-Pappan: [Field Museum Exhibit Renovation](#)
- Potawatomi Resources: [Citizen Potawatomi Nation – People of the Place of the Fire](#)
- Native Truths, Field Museum Learning Resources: [Native Truths – Field Museum](#)
- *N. W. Harris Learning Collection*: [Native Truths Toolkits](#)
- Indigenous Astronomy Virtual Lesson Activities: [Museums for Digital Learning](#)

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## Relevant Vocabulary

Pre-learning around these terms/ideas can support learning during the visit

Regalia  
Sovereignty  
Repatriation  
Generational knowledge  
Language revitalization  
Indian Removal Acts  
Decolonization