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Acclaimed and Award-Winning Documentaries for

Native American Studies



The Young Ancestors

Directed by Aimée Barry Broustra
2012, 60 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom rental: \$125

An inspiring documentary, *The Young Ancestors* explores a growing movement within American Indian communities to revitalize their native languages before they become extinct. It follows a group of teenagers, who, as part of a pilot program created by the Indigenous Language Institute, are learning their native language, Tewa, for the first time.

Like many today, the dedicated students in the film are motivated and enthusiastic about learning Tewa because they understand the symbiotic relationship between language and culture. Learning their tribal language allows the students to establish a line of continuity with their ancestors and to connect with the rituals performed in their community. Dances, songs, and ceremonies are demystified.

The Young Ancestors also explores the troubling history of forced boarding school attendance and relocation. It examines the historical reasons behind Native American language loss and uncovers the ways in which speaking one's native language heals on both individual and communal levels.

"RECOMMENDED. Many of the traditional dances, ceremonies, and songs that the teenagers grew up with become revitalized now that they understand the connectivity between the language and the rituals. Interviews regarding forced boarding school attendance and relocation of Native American Indian populations are included to provide context."

—Educational Media Reviews

"A charming new film. Suitable for high school classes and for college courses in cultural anthropology, anthropology of language, anthropology of world indigenous peoples, and Native American studies, as well as general audiences."

—Anthropology Review Database



Nowa Cumig: The Drum Will Never Stop

Directed by Marie-Michèle Jasmin-Belisle
2012, 74 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom rental: \$125



A candid portrait of Dennis Banks ("Nowa Cumig" in Ojibwe), co-founder of the American Indian Movement.

Through extensive interviews, photographs, and archival footage, *Nowa Cumig* tells the story of the American Indian Movement from the days that followed the Custer trial and the Wounded Knee siege, to the age of The Longest Walk, the three cross-continental walks for peace, sacred sites and Mother Earth which took place between 1978 and 2011, as well as the many anti-nuclear runs and walks across the U.S. and Japan which have been taking place since the 1980s.

Nowa Cumig: the Drum Will Never Stop is a celebration of Dennis Banks and all men, women and children who devoted their life to protect indigenous culture, sacred sites, and above all, life.



Musicwood

Directed by Maxine Trump
2012, 80 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom rental: \$125

A captivating documentary where Native American tribes, corporations, the US Government, and environmental organizations clash in an epic battle over culture and natural resources.

For hundreds of years, the acoustic guitar has been manufactured from the same high-quality Spruce tree. Today, due to a logging practice known as clear-cutting, this tree is on the brink of disappearing, taking with it, this historic musical instrument.

In the hope of finding a sustainable solution, owners of the top guitar makers unite with Greenpeace and travel to the Tongass National Forest to meet with Sealaska, a Native-owned corporation that was created out of the of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. For Sealaska, whose shareholders include members of the Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian tribes, the revenue generated by logging represents their economic lifeblood. But they must now also weigh the environmental repercussions of their actions.

"An unflinching look at the complex politics behind the logging of the Tongass National Forest.... In addition to amazing footage of the Tongass, interviews with guitar makers, environmental groups, and leaders of the Tlingit and Haida tribes, the film includes great musical performances." —Greenpeace



Elemental

Directed by Gayatri Roshan & Emmanuel Vaughan-Lee
2012, 93 and 56 minute versions available
56 minute version incl. optional closed captions
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

A powerful and unusually intimate portrait of modern environmental activism through the story of three eco-warriors united by their deep connection with nature. One of these three is Eriel Deranger, a Northern Alberta-based Canadian indigenous activist. A young mother and a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Deranger struggles with family challenges while campaigning tirelessly against the Tar Sands and its proposed 2,000-mile Keystone XL Pipeline.

✓ **"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED."**
—Educational Media Reviews Online

The Last Days of Shishmaref

Directed by Jan Louter
2008, 90 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

Inupiaq Eskimo have lived in Shishmaref on Sarchef Island off Alaska's Seward Peninsula for an estimated 4,000 years. Recently, the community has been forced to confront two great forces. The increasing influence of modern Western culture has caused a deep schism between the generations. At the same time, large areas of Shishmaref have begun crumbling into the sea. The entire village is expected to disappear within 10 years.

✓ **"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. A mesmerizing documentary."** —Educational Media Reviews Online



Survival Prayer

Directed by Benjamin Greené
2012, 70 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom rental: \$125

On a remote archipelago in the Pacific Northwest, an uncommon abundance of animal and vegetable life has sustained the Haida people for countless generations. Following traditional food harvesters as they gather and prepare for the winter, *Survival Prayer* is an intimate ethnographic portrait of an indigenous community and the conditions—environmental and man-made—that threaten their way of life.

"A wonderful film and a moving portrait of a people struggling to keep their traditional hunting and gathering ways alive to inspire new generations of Haida men and women." —Wade Davis, *National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence*



Child of Giants: My Journey with Maynard Dixon and Dorothea Lange

Directed by Tom Ropelewski
2010, 97 Minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

An intimate appreciation of two iconic American artists, legendary photographer Dorothea Lange and Maynard Dixon, a renowned painter and illustrator who captured the soul of the Southwest and its vanishing native peoples. Dixon travelled to the camps and reservations of the Hopi and Navajo, where he was welcomed with reverence for his talent with pencil, crayon and paint. This engrossing documentary recounts their story from the unique perspective of their eldest son, Daniel Rhodes Dixon, featuring plentiful examples of their work.



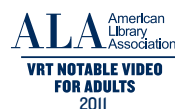
✓ **"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED."**
—Educational Media Reviews Online

★★★★ **"A fascinating documentary."**
—Video Librarian



Two Spirits

Directed by Lydia Nibley
2009, 51 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom rental: \$125



An exploration of gender and sexuality in Native American culture, *Two Spirits* interweaves the story of the life and brutal murder of a Navajo teenager with the largely unknown history of the 'two spirit' tradition—the acceptance, even celebration, among many indigenous cultures of people with both masculine and feminine traits.

"Riveting... A crash course on Navajo history and culture." —*LA Weekly*

"Does an excellent job of presenting information about the two spirit belief and the need for understanding, awareness and preservation of the tradition. RECOMMENDED."
—Educational Media Reviews Online



Miss Navajo

Directed by Billy Luther
2007, 60 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125



A fascinating look at a competition that redefines "pageant" as an opportunity for young women to honor and strengthen Navajo culture. This wonderful, acclaimed documentary reveals the importance of culture preservation and the role of women in continuing dying traditions.

✓ **"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. The insight into the matriarchal Navajo is fascinating."**
—Educational Media Reviews Online

"Engaging and insightful." —*Booklist*

"Filled with interesting information both about Navajo traditions and current issues that affect the group."
—*Feminist Review*



The Welcome: A Healing Journey for War Veterans and Their Families

Directed by Kim Shelton
2011, 93 minutes
Purchase \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

An up-close and emotionally resonant look at a group of veterans, from Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, who come together to participate in a healing retreat led by a mythologist and story teller using a mixture of Native American chants and Irish stories.

The Welcome offers a multicultural American perspective—including a Native American woman army vet who first struggle to find her place in the all-white group—on war experiences and life after war.

"Tears, laughter, and smiles flow in this highly recommended documentary, which is not only a great discussion prompter but offers an insightful look at the feelings and experiences of a diverse group of veterans." —*Booklist*

Long Journey Home

Directed by Michael Atwood
2004, 59 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

How does an American Indian tribe preserve its heritage while functioning in modern America? *Long Journey Home* tells the story of "walking in two worlds" through the family of Dee Ketchum, tribal chief of the Delaware Indians from 1998 through 2002. Across four generations, the film blends pivotal events from the tribe's past with current efforts to sustain its culture through family and community activities.



"RECOMMENDED."
—*Educational Media Review Online*



Mystic Voices: The Story of the Pequot War

2005, 116 minutes
Directed by Guy Perrotta and Charles Clemmons
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

What led to the first declared war in America? Narrated in part by Roy Scheider, *Mystic Voices* tells the story of a pivotal event in the early history of the Colonial America that set the stage for the ultimate domination of Native Peoples by European settlers.

★★★★ **"EDITOR'S CHOICE. A must for libraries in New England, this is highly recommended elsewhere."** —*Video Librarian*



"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. Bringing to life an unfortunate, overlooked event relegated to a brief mention in any introductory American history text, *Mystic Voices* succeeds in changing the direction of discussion of early American colonization."
—*Educational Media Reviews Online*

Powder River Country

Directed by Marianne Zugel & Doug Hawes-Davis
2005, 34 minutes
Purchase: \$210 / Classroom rental: \$95

Powder River Country looks at coal bed methane development and its impacts in Wyoming and Montana. For nearly 200 years, generations of homesteaders have ranched and farmed these high plains. But now progress in the name of a new source for natural gas is transforming the remote region and the future of agriculture is uncertain for many Native American communities in the area.



In the Land of the Totem Poles

Directed by Michel Viotte
1999, 51 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom rental: \$125

This video examines the work of Native American artists in the Pacific Northwest and how their wood carvings of totem poles, ceremonial masks and sculptures is part of a broader cultural renaissance.

★★★ **"Outstanding... a poignant and lucid documentary...RECOMMENDED."** —*Video Librarian*

"A real gem." —*Library Journal*

"A wonderful resource for classes in multiculturalism, Native America history, or art."
—*School Library Journal*

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