



Indigenous Peoples' Day Steps Out

Article

RED BANK, New Jersey (Achieve3000, October 7, 2020). *Buh-BOOM, buh-BOOM... Buh-BOOM, buh-BOOM...* The double-thumps of sticks on a large skin drum echo across the grounds. The drum keeps time for the singers. A group of dancers can feel the beat in their chests. The steady rhythm represents the beating heart of life itself. Many of the dancers are dressed in colorful clothing and headdresses. They hold hands and move in a circle, performing the Round Dance. The dance is about healing and friendship. It's all part of an Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is taking hold as a holiday across the U.S. For Indigenous nations, this is a day of pride. It's a chance to celebrate their cultures after many generations of loss and hardship.

Columbus and Comebacks

"In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." For decades, American kids have learned that poem about Christopher Columbus. It told how he "discovered" America. But there were millions of Indigenous people already living in the Americas. They were there long before those ships from Spain arrived.

Meeting the Europeans marked the beginning of a terrible shift in history for Indigenous people. Disease and war killed millions of Native Americans. Survivors were forced to retreat. Their lands were taken from them. The government tried to force Native American nations to give up their cultures and traditions. But they held onto them. Recently, Indigenous people have mounted a big cultural comeback.

Today, there are more than 5 million Indigenous people living in the United States. They belong to more than 550 nations. And they're working to take back more of their heritage and culture.

A Day of Pride and Celebration

Indigenous Peoples' Day is the result of this renewed and growing pride in Indigenous identity. South Dakota was the first state to celebrate the holiday in 1989. Since then, more states and communities have voted to make Indigenous Peoples' Day an official holiday.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is held on the second Monday of October. In some areas, it replaces Columbus Day. At events celebrating the holiday, Indigenous people are encouraged to wear traditional clothing. They bring rattles, drums, and flutes, as well as their voices. Dancing often takes center stage. The Round Dance has become a crowning event at celebrations across the continent. It carries a message of peace and community.

"We are still here," said Derrick Lente. Lente is a member of the Sandia Pueblo Nation. He's also a state lawmaker in New Mexico. Lente spoke at an Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration. He supported new laws that created the state's Indigenous Peoples' Day. "And we will be here forever," he said.

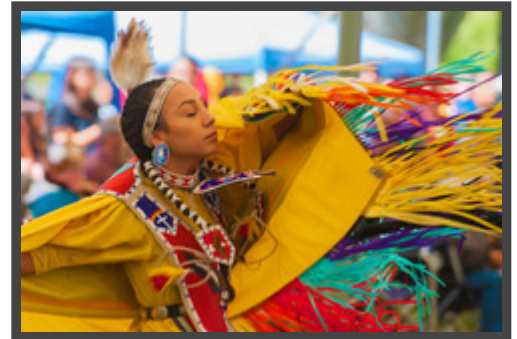


Photo credit: Dee Browning/Shutterstock

Hundreds of dancers take center stage during Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations. They represent many traditions.

Video credit: Voice of America

Dictionary

generation (*noun*) a group of people born and living during the same time

heritage (*adjective*) having to do with national or cultural background

identity (*noun*) a set of things that give a person, place, or thing its own special character

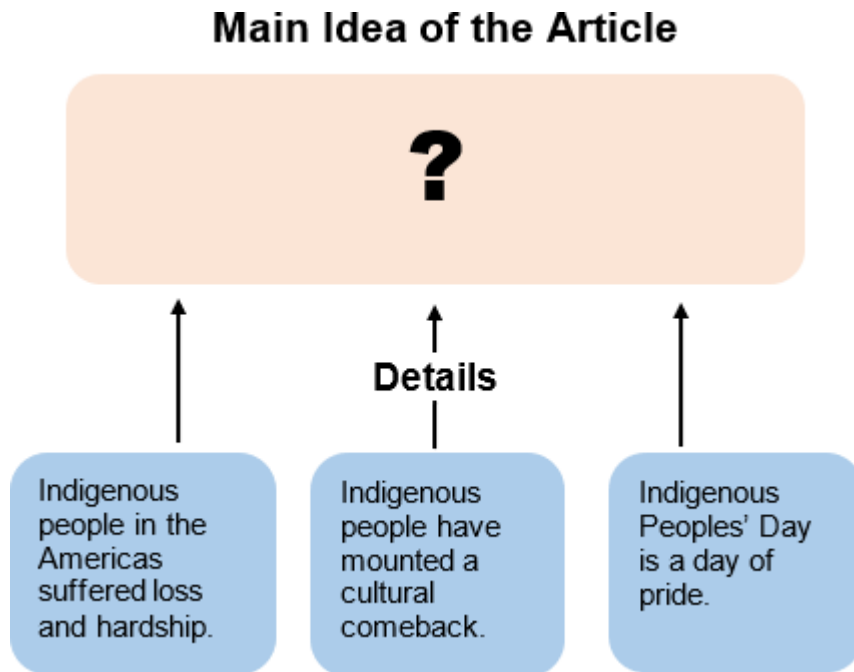
Indigenous (*adjective*) native to a particular country, region, or other place

survivor (*noun*) someone who has lived through a dangerous or terrible experience

Activity

PART 1

Question 1



Based on the Article, which best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- ☐ Ⓐ Indigenous Peoples' Day was first celebrated in the state of South Dakota in 1989.
- ☐ Ⓑ Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrates Native American culture and communities.
- ☐ Ⓒ Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations include the use of rattles, drums, and flutes.
- ☐ Ⓓ Indigenous Peoples' Day events include the Round Dance that represents friendship.

Question 2

Which of these is an opinion?

- ☐ Ⓐ There are more than 5 million Indigenous people living in the United States today.
- ☐ Ⓑ The U.S. government should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- ☐ Ⓒ There were millions of Indigenous people already living in the Americas in 1492.
- ☐ Ⓓ The U.S. government tried to force Indigenous people to give up their cultures.

Question 3

Which is the closest **synonym** for the word *heritage*?

- ☐ (A) property
- ☐ (B) fortune
- ☐ (C) government
- ☐ (D) tradition

Question 4

According to the Article, why is Indigenous Peoples' Day taking hold as a holiday in the U.S.?

- ☐ (A) It's a chance for Indigenous people to celebrate their cultures after years of loss and hardship.
- ☐ (B) It's a chance for Indigenous people to bring rattles, drums, and flutes to celebrations across the continent.
- ☐ (C) It's a chance for the millions of Indigenous people living in the U.S. to join in a Round Dance together.
- ☐ (D) It's a chance for Indigenous people like Derrick Lente of the Sandia Pueblo Nation to become state lawmakers.

Question 5

Which question is **not** answered by the Article?

- ☐ (A) What is the crowning event at many Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations?
- ☐ (B) Why was meeting the Europeans a terrible shift in the history of Indigenous people?
- ☐ (C) Why did the government try to force Indigenous nations to give up their traditions?
- ☐ (D) What do Indigenous people often bring to Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations?

Question 6

Suppose Max wants to find out about the Round Dance. He would find the **most** information by _____.

- ☐ (A) reading a book about the Sandia Pueblo Nation
- ☐ (B) looking in a dictionary under the word "dance"
- ☐ (C) reading a book about traditional Indigenous foods
- ☐ (D) looking on a website about Indigenous traditions

Question 7

Which is the closest **antonym** for the word *hardship*?

- ☐ (A) trust
- ☐ (B) fear
- ☐ (C) comfort
- ☐ (D) possession

Question 8

The Article states:

Indigenous Peoples' Day is held on the second Monday of October. In some areas, it replaces Columbus Day. At events celebrating the holiday, Indigenous people are encouraged to wear traditional clothing. They bring rattles, drums, and flutes, as well as their voices. Dancing often takes center stage. The Round Dance has become a crowning event at celebrations across the continent. It carries a message of peace and community.

Why did the author include this passage?

- ☐ Ⓐ To argue that every U.S. state should replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day
- ☐ Ⓑ To give details about the ways Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated throughout the U.S.
- ☐ Ⓒ To show readers that everyone at Indigenous Peoples' Day events must wear traditional clothing.
- ☐ Ⓓ To encourage readers across the U.S. to join in an Indigenous Peoples' Day event next October