

**Grades: 9-12**

## **Native America, Part 2: “Nature to Nations”**

NATIVE AMERICA is a four-part PBS series that challenges everything we thought we knew about the Americas before and since contact with Europe. It travels through 15,000-years to showcase massive cities, unique systems of science, art, and writing, and 100 million people connected by social networks and spiritual beliefs spanning two continents. The series reveals some of the most advanced cultures in human history and the Native American people who created it and whose legacy continues, unbroken, to this day. The series explores this extraordinary world through an unprecedented combination of cutting-edge science and traditional indigenous knowledge. It is NATIVE AMERICA as never seen before-featuring sacred rituals filmed for the first time, history changing scientific discoveries, and rarely heard voices from the living legacy of Native American culture. In Part 2: Explore the rise of great American nations. Investigate lost cities in Mexico, a temple in Peru, a potlatch ceremony in the Pacific Northwest and a tapestry of shell beads in upstate New York whose story inspired our own democracy.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

### **Question Box 1**

- How did the diverse cultures discussed in the episode impact American democracy?
- What did you learn about the lost cities in Mexico?
- What is a Potlatch Ceremony?
- What were some of the sacred rituals shared in this episode?
- Describe the tapestry of shell beads? What is it called and how is it used?

### **Question Box 2**

- What is the most important thing I learned personally?
- What were some of the most interesting discoveries I made while watching this program?
- How much did you know about the subject before we started? Explain.
- Reflect on how the topics discussed in the episode impacted the current societies/cultures in the Americas today. Do you see their influence?
- What do you think about the multiple outside influences that have impacted the Americas? Do you think they have made America what it is today? Why or why not?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Create a table that includes a column for each of the Nations researched in this

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episode, important details from the show and how each impacted American democracy. Click [here](#) for a template.

- Read about Hiawatha <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiawatha>. Compare it to Longfellow's poem on Hiawatha's childhood: [https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems\\_poem.php?pid=296](https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=296) How are the stories similar? How are they different?

#### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- What is the process for making wampum? What is something from your cultural tradition that takes a long time to make? What is that process?
- What is the process for becoming chief. Why is it such an important source of provide in one's family? What are the great responsibilities of becoming a chief?
- What does it mean to think of the seventh generation? Trace the evolution of something you use back 7 generations. How has it evolved over the years? How do you predict it will change over the next seven generations?
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#### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- Transportation careers are among the fastest growing in the Inland Empire.
- What types of transportation might have been used by Native Americans?
- How many types/methods of modern transportation can you name?
- How are these different from those used by the Native Americans?
- What are modern means of transportation used for?
- How have advances in transportation improved people's lives since ancient times?
- What negative impacts have they caused?
- What changes could be made to limit these negative impacts?
- Social-Emotional Connection: Be a Tree - There's nothing more grounded than a tree! Feel your connection with the ground by imaging you are a tree. This sounds like, "I am firmly planted. I feel my feet rooted to the ground. My back is a strong trunk helping me feel stable in the moment. I feel my toes connecting with the ground. My arms are my branches. I feel them reach out into the world."