If we wonder often, the gift of knowledge will come.

-Arapaho Proverb

Dear Educator,

We often think of Native Americans during the month of November because of the important role they played in the first Thanksgiving. However, did you also know that November is Native American Heritage Month?

As President Barack Obama proclaimed, “For millennia before Europeans settled in North America, the indigenous peoples of this continent flourished with vibrant cultures… From generation to generation, they handed down invaluable cultural knowledge and rich traditions, which continue to thrive in Native American communities across our country today. During National Native American Heritage Month, we honor and celebrate their importance to our great Nation and our world.”

We hope this special lesson will help your students understand the rich history and contributions of Native Americans, inspire them to “wonder often,” and at the same time refine their understanding and use of prepositions.

Sincerely,
The Grammar Gallery Team
# Native American Heritage Month Lesson

## Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases

A preposition is a word that is used before a noun or pronoun to show **place**, **time**, **direction**, or **ownership**. We use prepositions in sentences and phrases to show the relationship between a noun or pronoun and other words. A **prepositional phrase** is a series of words that begins with a preposition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native Americans were the first people to settle <strong>on</strong> the land <strong>in</strong> North America.</th>
<th>After the early 1900s, the bison that the Plains Indians depended upon were almost extinct.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native Americans of the Pacific Northwest traveled <strong>by</strong> canoe <strong>to</strong> other villages.</td>
<td>The Native Americans <strong>of</strong> the Desert Southwest depended on rain to water their crops.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**SPECIALIZED PREPOSITIONS**

A specialized preposition shows relationships between concepts and objects that you cannot see or touch. We use specialized prepositions such as *with, for, except,* and *since* to show the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word (or words) in a sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native American potters often decorate their work <strong>with</strong> beautiful designs.</th>
<th>Native Americans performed dances and said prayers <strong>for</strong> rain to water their crops.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Native American pottery" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Native American dancers" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No one <strong>except</strong> the Indians of North America used porcupine quills to decorate their clothes, shoes, and other possessions.</th>
<th><strong>Since</strong> the earliest times, the raven has been an important figure in the legends of many Native American tribes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Porcupine quills" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Raven" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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DIRECTIONS: Look at each picture related to Native American heritage, history, and culture. Make a sentence about each picture. Use one or more prepositions in each sentence.

Example:

“The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth” (1914) By Jennie A. Brownscombe

The Native Americans of New England celebrated the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims.
DIRECTIONS: Write a sentence about each picture. Use one or more prepositions in each sentence. Underline the prepositions.

Example: Some Native Americans lived in homes called teepees.

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