

Fun Facts: American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month



TEACHING GUIDE

About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets, although originally created for teachers to use in classrooms, are easily adapted for use at home to keep kids entertained and learning. They are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects.

Using the American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month Fun Facts in the Classroom or at Home

Teachers and parents/caregivers should give their student(s) time to read and digest the information in the American Indian and Alaska Natives Fun Facts handout. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with children at any grade level.

Any Grade Level

Discussion. Potential discussion questions include:

- What section of the fun facts' handout interest you the most and why?
- Were you surprised to learn that the population of American Indian and Alaska Natives was 6.9 million in 2019?

American Indian Reservations. Teachers and parents/caregivers could explain to children what an American Indian reservation is, then use the My Tribal Area tool <www.census.gov/tribal/> to see if there are any reservations in your state. If not, search in surrounding states and see where the closest reservation is located.

Elementary School Level

Dream Job. After looking at the business section of the Fun Facts handout, have your student think of a business they would like to own one day. Then, have students explain why they would like to own that type of business. For younger students, adults can list different businesses and have the student choose from the list.

Elementary School Level (cont.)

Comparing Data in a Bar Chart. Teachers or parents/caregivers have a discussion with your student(s) about bar charts, specifically why bar charts are used. Then, students could take a look at the following bar chart <www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/facts-for-features/2019/american-indian-alaska-native-graph-pdf.pdf> and share what they learned about the American Indian and Alaska Native population. Students could guess what they think the population will be for 2019, 2020, and 2021 to create a bar chart to show their predictions.

Middle School Level

How Do Other States Compare? Using the following link, students could research the total population of American Indian and Alaska Natives in each state <<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2010-2019/state/asrh/sc-est2019-alldata5.csv>>. Students could identify the two states with the lowest population and discover how other states compare; then have students write a paragraph about what they learned while conducting research.

News Report. Using information from the Fun Facts handout, have students pretend they are news anchors sharing information about American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Students could conduct further research on American Indian and Alaska Natives to help draft their news reports; then students could read them aloud to a partner.

High School Level

Indian Tribe Research. Students could research different federally recognized Indian tribes. Teachers, or parents/caregivers can assign a tribe to their student(s) and have them research information about their history, preservations, and other important facts. Then, students can write a one-page report on their findings that includes data points.

Population Projections. Students could review the most recent overall Census Bureau population projections <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popproj/data/tables.html> for our country. Ask students to predict different factors that lead to these projections and how the total U.S. population compares to the American Indian and Alaska Native population.