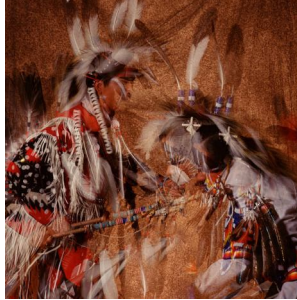


Voices of Nature and Native Americans  
Study Guide  
Grades 3-6  
Donna Wissinger & Joy Myers



Deer claw rattles, native flutes and communal drums draw students into the Native American experience of nature. Every creature has a voice and each voice has a place of honor. Using a talking stick, the artists help students move from curiosity in the Native American instruments and culture to finding their own voices. The artists encourage students to build upon new principals and to take the action that enables them to be participants in keeping our planet green.

Old Voices with Wisdom for Today's Students

Imagine Native flutes playing softly in concert with voices of long ago that hold wisdom and guidance for safe-keeping today's world. Feel heartbeats of drums that bind community. Find the voice deep within that is you. This is the Voice of Nature.



Out of the Indian approach to life there came a great freedom—an intense and absorbing love for nature, a respect for life, enriching faith in a Supreme Power, and principles of truth, honesty, generosity, equity, and brotherhood as a guide to mundane relations.

Luther Standing Bear

I am going to venture that the man who sat on the ground in his tipi meditating on life and its meaning, accepting the kinship of all creatures, and acknowledging unity with the universe of things was infusing into his being the true essence of civilization.

Luther Standing Bear

When a man does a piece of work which is admired by all we say that it is wonderful, but when we see the changes of day and night, the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky, and the changing seasons upon the earth with their ripening fruits, everyone must realize that it is the work of someone more powerful than man. Chased-by-Bears

## Vocabulary Words in Preparation for Voices of Nature

Indigenous  
Honor  
Respect  
Community  
Democracy  
Endangered  
Extinct  
Recycle

## Activities in Preparation or Follow-up

Research a Native American.

Where and how did they live?

What words can you use to describe their relationship to Nature, to others, to their own voices?

Watch selections from the film *Dances with Wolves*

What do you notice about the Native American way of talking, listening and communicating?

How is everyone's voice honored?

What can you do to practice honor in your relationships?

What do you see that tells you about the Native Americans relationship to plants and animals?

What do you think the movie producers of *Pocahontas* wished to convey by creating talking animals and trees?

What can you do to honor the Voices of Nature and preserve the quality of life for all?

## Review of Understanding and Learning

1. Drums, rainsticks, and deer claw rattles belong to which family of instruments?
  - a. woodwind
  - b. percussion
  - c. drum family
2. The Native American culture has a great respect for:
  - a. Only humans
  - b. All voices including the human voice
  - c. The balance of nature
  - d. B & C
3. Endangered means:
  - a. The number of individuals in a species is very low
  - b. People are over reacting to the loss of plants and animals in the natural world
  - c. There are no longer any individuals in a species
4. Extinct means:
  - a. The number of individuals in a species is very low
  - b. There are no longer any individuals in a species
5. In the Native American way of communicating:
  - a. Everyone talks at once
  - b. People think about what they are going to say while others are speaking
  - c. None of the above
6. In the Native American way of communicating:
  - a. People listen attentively while others speak
  - b. There is a silence after someone has spoken so that all can think about what the person said
  - c. People take the time to consider carefully what they will say
  - d. People honor their voices and the voices of others
  - e. All of the above
7. Native Americans and other indigenous people:
  - a. Are not as civilized as Western cultures
  - b. Have much to contribute to Western understanding of the natural world
8. Native American flutes:
  - a. Require a lot of air and can only be played by professionals
  - b. Require little air and can be played and enjoyed by many

## FCAT Style Questions:

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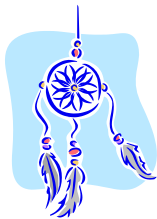
Luther Standing Bear

1. The passage above refers to:
  - a. The Native American culture
  - b. The code of animals
  - c. The imbalance of Nature
2. The passage above indicates that for the author:
  - a. Native Americans do not believe in anything greater than themselves
  - b. Native Americans believed in a power greater than themselves
3. From the passage above you can tell that the author believes:
  - a. The Native American culture in one in which people see themselves as better than others
  - b. The Native American culture believes all life has value and should be respected

I am going to venture that the man who sat on the ground in his tipi meditating on life and its meaning, accepting the kinship of all creatures, and acknowledging unity with the universe of things was infusing into his being the true essence of civilization.

Luther Standing Bear

4. In the passage above *civilization* is determined by:
  - a. The competition to acquire possessions
  - b. The quality of a person's relationship to others
5. In the passage above, Luther Standing Bear believes:
  - a. Only the Native Americans can know true kinship with creatures
  - b. That all of the universe is united and each a part of the whole



## Sunshine State Standards Addressed

### Music

- MU.B. 1.2 Students participate in creating music
- MU.C. 1.2 Students understand music in relation to culture and history and how music communicates
- MU.D. 1.2 Students identify musical instruments and their families
- MU.E. 1.2 Students understand music in relationship to other disciplines
- MU.E. 2.2 Students understand a greater context of music to life

### Social Studies

- SS. A.1.2 Students understand time and chronology
- SS. A. 3.2 Students understand parts of US history related to Native Americans
- SS. A. 4.2
- SS. A. 5.2
- SS. A. 6-2 Students understand the Native Americans place in Florida history and culture
  
- SS. B. 2.2 Students understand how geography influences peoples' lives
- SS. D. 1.2 Students understand how geography influences how people interact with one another