

## Parent Discussion/Activity Guide Module 1

### *Why Teach Native American History?*



*Each parent guide is designed to engage the parent and student in a meaningful discussion regarding the topic of each Module. We encourage parents to read the synopsis of the module with their child, watch the video, discuss vocabulary words, answer the discussion questions, do the suggested activities together and explore the resources.*

### **Brief program synopsis of module:**

In the center of Wyoming is the seventh largest and fifth most populated Indian Reservation in the United States: the Wind River Reservation, home of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes. This learning module, “*Why Teach Native American History*”, emphasizes the value and beauty in Native American Culture and the importance for all people to understand the history of American. In the module it is discussed that the two tribes have a long history in Wyoming and were, in fact, long here before Wyoming became a state. Tribal members featured in the module relay that it is important for people to understand who they are as tribal people and that they are not all just clumped together in one tribe.

### **Module 1 – “Why Teach Native American History?”**

<http://windriveredu.org> or <http://wyomingpbs.org/learningmedia>

“*Why Teach Native American History?*”

### **Vocabulary Words introduced in “Why Teach Native American History” and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Lesson Plans:**

(\* vocabulary words have more than one definition used)

*Culture*

*Perspective*

*Cultural Identity*

*Stereotypes*



*History*  
*Indigenous*  
*Perception*

*Sovereignty*  
*Treaty*  
*Value System*

## **Discussion Questions**

- #1. How many tribes are located on the Wind River Indian Reservation?
- #2. How many tribal members live on the Wind River Indian Reservation?
- #3. What do the words, “Cultural Identity” mean to you? How would you define your own cultural identity?
- #4. Why is the reservation described as a Sovereign nation? Can you think of and list any other sovereign nations?

## **Suggested Activities**

- #1. Watch– “Why Teach Native American History?” - <http://windriveredu.org> or <http://wyomingpbs.org/learningmedia>
- #2. Discuss vocabulary words with your child. From viewing the module, ask your student what each word means. Answers provided at end of this guide.
- #3. Look at the map of the Wind River Indian Reservation. How far away is the community you live in from the reservation?
- #4. Write a brief history of your family. Include what your value systems are, what cultural activities you participate in and what you believe your cultural identity is.

## **Resources to Investigate**

<http://windriveredu.org> or <http://wyomingpbs.org/learningmedia>  
“Why Teach Native American History?”

["Chief Washakie of the Shoshone - A Photographic Essay" by Henry E. Stamm, IV, Ph.D](#)

["The Wind River Shoshone" by Henry Stamm, IV, Ph.D.](#)

### **Eastern Shoshone Tribe of Wyoming**

<http://easternshoshone.org>

### **Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming**

<http://northernarapaho.com>

<http://northernarapaho.com/history>

### **Wind River Reservation – Google Map**

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Wind+River+Reservation>



### **Vocabulary Words – definitions:**

***Culture*** -the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people or social group.

***Cultural Identity*** – is the feeling of belonging to a group. It is part of a person’s self-conception and self-perception and is related to nationality, ethnicity, religion, social class, generation, locality or any kind of social group that has its own distinct culture.

***History***-the whole series of past events connected with someone or something.

***Indigenous*** – originating or occurring naturally in a particular place; native.

***Perception*** - the state of being or process of becoming aware of something through the senses.

***Perspective*** -a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something; a point of view.

***Stereotypes***- a widely held but fixed oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

***Sovereignty*** – the authority of a state to govern itself or another state – a self-governing state.

***Treaty*** – a formal agreement between two or more states in reference to peace, alliance, commerce, or other international relations.

***Value System*** - a hierarchy of values that all moral agents possess, demonstrated by their choices.