

Social Studies

Grade 3 / Week 6

Your Week at a Glance

- Area of focus: Civics – Lesson: Contributions of Native Americans
- Area of Focus: Civics – Lesson: Contributions of African Americans
- Area of Focus: Civics – Lesson: Contributions of Hispanic Americans
- STANDARDS:

SS.3.C.2.1 Identify group and individual actions of citizens that demonstrate civility, cooperation, volunteerism, and other civic virtues.

- STATUTES: 1003.42 f, h, p, q, s

Name

Teacher

Contributions to American Culture: Native Americans **(adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 20)**

Sacagawea lived over 200 years ago, but she is still a great example of someone who showed true civic virtues. Civic virtues are habits or behaviors that help make communities better places to live. Civic virtues also help people get along better with each other and keep citizens safe and happy.

Sacagawea was a Shoshone Indian who was born around 1788 in what is now Lemhi County, Idaho. When she was about 11 years old, Hidatsa Indians captured her and took her to their village on the upper Missouri River. She married a French trader named Toussaint Charbonneau and then had her first child, a baby boy, in 1805. This young wife and mother was about to begin the adventure of a lifetime.

The famous explorers, Lewis and Clark, hired Sacagawea's husband to travel with the Corps of Discovery on their journey west. President Thomas Jefferson formed the Corps of Discovery to explore and map the Louisiana Purchase. The United States had bought the 828,000 square miles of land from France. The explorers hired Toussaint Charbonneau as a translator to help change words from one language to another. Sacagawea and her two-month-old son came along too, and it's a good thing they did!

Sacagawea made life better for the Corps of Discovery in many ways. First, having a woman with them showed the American Indians in the area that the Corps was not planning to attack. William Clark was one of the leaders of the expedition, and he wrote, "A woman with a party of men is a token of peace."

Sacagawea also helped by cooking, sewing and washing clothes. She and her baby also softened the mood of the group at times and made the men more willing to compromise.

When the Corps of Discovery reached Shoshone territory, they were in need of horses to carry them and their supplies over the rugged mountains. Lewis and Clark relied on Sacagawea to talk to the Shoshone leaders and ask them for horses. When Sacagawea began talking to the Shoshone chief, she soon realized that he was actually her brother Cameahwait. This was a great stroke of luck for the group. With Sacagawea there, it probably made it easier for the Shoshone to decide to help the Corps. The chief sold them horses and lent them a guide to show them the way.

Sacagawea made life better for the Corps of Discovery with her knowledge of the land, her ability to communicate with the Shoshone Indians and her calm and helpful personality. Without Sacagawea and her civic virtues, the journey would have been more difficult, and probably less successful.

American Indian Contributions to American Culture

Government

Did you know that some American Indians had a form of government very similar to the one we use today? Benjamin Franklin said that the idea of a strong federal (national) government came from the Iroquois League of Nations. The Iroquois League of Nations was made up of six Iroquois groups who joined together to form a central government. The government had a council that made decisions to keep peace between the nations. The League of Nations also had a written constitution, or a set of rights and agreements that all members of the league agreed to obey. The U.S. government today is based on a written constitution and a legislature with representatives from each state.

Arts

Many people enjoy and display American Indian artwork. It is beautiful and usually made from natural materials. Pottery and ceramics are made of clay. Beads are made of bone and seeds, and rugs and baskets are woven from dried plants or strips of wool and hides. Many of today's artists get ideas for their creations from the natural beauty of American Indian artwork.

Foods

Some of our most popular foods come from the American Indian culture. Most American Indian diets were based on the "Three Sisters," or corn, beans and squash. Corn was eaten fresh, or dried and used to make tortillas, cornbread and cornmeal mush. Beans were eaten with most meals. Squash was made into soups and stews. Often all three "sisters" were combined to make a dish called succotash. American Indians also grew potatoes, peanuts, pumpkins, tomatoes, peppers and melons.

Ecology

Ecology is the study of how living things interact with their environment. Today, most people are very concerned about how our lives impact the world around us. Respect for nature was simply a way of life for all American Indians. They tried to respect all forms of life and all parts of nature. They didn't kill animals unless they needed them to survive. They also believed that all things, including the Earth, have a spirit and that we must all try to live in harmony with nature. This idea lives on today in conservation and preservation programs.

Navajo Code Talkers



When the United States was in the middle of fighting WWII, leaders realized that the Japanese could break any code the military tried to use. Codes are used to send messages between military leaders and soldiers during battles. When these codes were broken, battles were lost.

In 1942, a man named Philip Johnston had grown up on a Navajo Indian reservation. He came up with the idea of training Navajo soldiers to use their language in writing new military codes. The Navajo language is very complex, and only about 30 non-Navajo people knew how to speak it. At first, 29 Navajo soldiers were trained to make an unbreakable code using their native language. The code was tested and found to work well. Then, 200 more Navajo Code Talkers were trained and sent to the Pacific, where they sent and received messages during battle. These Code Talkers were so successful that not one of their messages was ever deciphered (understood) by the enemy. The codes they wrote were based on the Navajo language and then changed in small ways that made them impossible for the enemy to crack.

By the end of the war, about 420 Navajo soldiers were trained as Code Talkers. During the Battle of Iwo Jima, more than 800 messages were sent and received. These messages helped guide the troops, keeping them safe and allowing them to win the battle and the war. The United States owes much of its success in the war to these skilled American Indian Code Talkers.

Think and Review

1.What are civic virtues? How did Sacagawea demonstrate civic virtues on the journey with the Corps of Discovery?

2.What was the Iroquois League of Nations? What type of government did it use?

3.Why do you think the U.S. government chose the Navajo language as a source for a new military code during World War II?

Contributions to American Culture: African Americans (adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 21)



Shirley Chisholm

Shirley Chisholm enjoyed working with children, but she was also interested in government. She wanted to make things better for the people in her neighborhood. She helped start the Unity Democratic Club in 1960 and then ran for the New York State Assembly (the state legislature) in 1964. Chisholm won the election and decided she wanted to do even more to help her community.

In 1968 Chisholm ran for the U.S. Congress. She won, becoming the first African American woman ever to be elected to Congress. First lady Eleanor Roosevelt once told her, "Don't let anyone stand in your way," and Chisholm didn't!

While serving her first term as a Congresswoman, Chisholm stood for what she believed in and hired only women for her staff. She wasn't afraid to let everyone know she was against the Vietnam War. She worked for the rights of women and minority groups (small groups or groups often treated unfairly within the larger community), and she always spoke up for those in need.

In 1972 Chisholm decided to run for president of the United States. She knew she didn't have enough support to win, but she wanted to bring attention to issues that were important to her. She also wanted to show that an African American woman COULD run for president! She didn't win, but she was the first African American woman ever to run for the office.

Chisholm left Congress in 1982 and spent the rest of her life traveling, giving speeches and teaching. Her leadership made life better for those around her. She once said, "I want history to remember me not just as the first black woman to be elected to Congress, not as the first black woman to have made a bid for the presidency of the

United States, but as a black woman who lived in the 20th century and dared to be herself.”

“African Americans have made great contributions to our American way of life.”

African American Contributions to American Culture

Government

The ancestors of many of today’s African Americans came to North America as African slaves. Even after slavery was outlawed (made illegal), African Americans were still discriminated against in many ways. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a law that Congress passed and the president signed. This law made it illegal to discriminate against (treat a group unfairly) any race, nationality, religion or gender. This act changed the voting laws, created more jobs, and it opened up education and public buildings to everyone. It also protected the rights of all minorities. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 paved the way for better relations between people of all races and helped people be treated as equals. More recently, Barack Obama made history when voters elected him as the first African American president of the United States.

Arts

The Harlem Renaissance was a period of change in African American literature, music, theater and art. It lasted throughout the 1920s and 1930s. Harlem is an area in New York City where many African Americans settled. Renaissance means “rebirth,” or a new beginning, which is what most African Americans were searching for after they were freed from slavery.

The Harlem Renaissance movement focused on the beauty, strength and talent of African Americans. The jazz music, realistic literature, colorful poetry and abstract art created during this period influenced American culture for years to come.

Foods

Soul food is a name given to traditional foods that African Americans have been cooking for years and years. Most soul food is based on recipes created by African Americans who lived in the South. Soul food is often made with cheaper cuts of meat, along with wild game such as possum and squirrel. These were the only types of foods that many people could afford.

Today, soul food has become popular with people of all races and backgrounds. Foods such as fried chicken, fried green tomatoes, okra, black-eyed peas and grits are all popular soul foods that have become a part of America’s cookbook!

Ecology

Dr. Robert Bullard is an African American professor and activist who fights against “environmental racism.” This is the process of choosing whether or not to put natural

hazards in places where certain races live. Dr. Bullard discovered that most garbage dumps, incinerators (places where garbage is burned) and toxic waste dumps in Texas were located in African American neighborhoods. The people in these neighborhoods were not given the chance to choose whether they wanted these environmental hazards in their communities. Dr. Bullard now works to make sure decisions about where to build such sites are made not just by government leaders, but also by the people who live in these neighborhoods.

Language

Our language is full of words “borrowed” from other cultures. Slaves brought here from Africa brought their religious beliefs, languages and other practices. Some words that became part of our language are “bongo,” “yam” and “zombie.” Other words have entered our language more recently. African American performers have made many words popular, but people of all backgrounds use them. Have you commented on your friend’s “bling” (shiny jewelry or other fancy items)? Are you hoping to get a “Benjamin” for your birthday? That’s the term for the \$100 bill with Benjamin Franklin’s portrait on it. African American contributions to English enhance our language.

Think and Review

1. Shirley Chisholm said that she knew she wouldn’t be elected president. Why do you think she chose to run anyway?

2. What is environmental racism? Give an example to support your answer.

3. What is soul food? Give a few examples of soul food and explain where you think it got its name.

Contributions to American Culture: Hispanic (adapted from Florida Studies Weekly Week 22)



Cesar Chavez

Have you ever heard adults talk about their work environment? Maybe they are unhappy and want better work conditions and higher pay. Many people have fought for these. One of them is Cesar Chavez.

Cesar Chavez was born in Arizona in 1927. His grandfather came to the United States from Mexico, and his parents owned a small grocery store and ranch. Times were hard for the family. They were so hard, in fact, that they lost their business and moved to California to find work. They became migrant workers. These types of workers travel from farm to farm, working in the fields. Chavez was only 11 years old at the time.

Since his family moved all the time, Chavez went to many different schools. He finally stopped going to school after the eighth grade, but he never stopped reading and learning about things that interested him. Life as a migrant worker was difficult. Living conditions were poor, and many people crowded into small, dirty shacks without clean water or electricity. Money was limited and jobs were hard to find.

After returning from serving in the Navy in 1948, Chavez married. He and his wife continued to work as migrant workers. Many of the migrant workers were Mexican Americans, and Chavez knew they deserved better. He began working for the rights of migrant workers. In 1962, he helped form the National Farm Workers Association. This group later became United Farm Workers.

United Farm Workers (UFW) was a union (group formed to protect workers' rights). It worked to get better pay and safer working conditions for migrant workers. His motto

was “Sí se puede,” which means, “Yes it can be done.” The UFW organized the migrant workers and took their demands to the people who owned large farms and ranches. Chavez organized strikes, or “huelgas,” against owners if they refused to meet workers’ demands. A strike is when workers refuse to work until they receive more money and better working conditions. The UFW also asked Americans to boycott, or refuse to buy, California lettuce and grapes until growers started treating the workers better. Chavez said, “We are not slaves and we are not animals. And we are not alone.”

Cesar Chavez practiced civic virtues by working to improve conditions for thousands of migrant workers throughout the United States. While he made great progress, the fight for better treatment of migrant workers continues today.

Hispanic American Contributions to American Culture

Government

Hispanic Americans have made their mark on our government by serving in leadership positions since the early days of our nation’s history. Representative Joseph Marion Hernández, from Florida, became the first Hispanic American to serve in Congress when he took office in 1822. The number of Hispanic Americans serving in Congress has continued to rise over the years.

The first Hispanic American to serve as a U.S. Cabinet member was Lauro Cavazos Jr. President Ronald Reagan appointed him as Secretary of Education in 1988. Lauro was born on a ranch in Texas, and his mother’s family had come from Mexico. Sonia Sotomayor was the first Hispanic American to be appointed to the Supreme Court. Her family is from Puerto Rico.

Arts

Judy Baca is a Hispanic American painter and teacher. She uses her skills to bring art to people who don’t have a chance to visit an art gallery or museum. Baca paints many of her pictures on walls in Hispanic American neighborhoods so that everyone can enjoy them! Her most famous work is “The Great Wall of Los Angeles.” This 2,754-foot long mural (wall painting) is painted on a cement retaining wall on the banks of a canal. Judy designed the mural to show many of the forgotten events in the history of Los Angeles. She especially wanted to feature events that involve the Hispanic American community. She even invited young artists from the community to work on the project with her. It is one of the longest murals in the world!

Foods

Our American eating habits have been greatly influenced by Hispanic American foods. It’s likely that some of your favorite dishes have Hispanic heritage. Do you enjoy nachos, tacos, enchiladas, burritos and quesadillas? Don’t forget chips and salsa. Some Hispanic American foods are made with sofrito. Sofrito is a mixture of tomatoes, roasted

bell peppers, garlic, onions and herbs. Many Hispanic foods also use cornmeal as a main ingredient. Which Hispanic American foods do you enjoy?

Ecology

Mario Molina was born in Mexico but became a U.S. citizen. He is a chemist who began doing research on chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the 1970s. At the time, CFCs were used in refrigerators, aerosol spray cans and cleaning products. Molina's research proved that CFCs were destroying the ozone layer of the atmosphere. This was letting in harmful ultraviolet light and causing skin cancer. Because of his work, CFCs were banned in many countries, and Molina was awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Language

As more and more people immigrated to America from Spanish-speaking countries, the two languages intermingled, or mixed together. You might be surprised at the number of Spanish words that have become part of American English over the years. Here are just a few:

Armadillo, mesa, adobe, plaza cafeteria, rodeo, canyon, tobacco, jerky, tornado and llama

Think and Review

1. What is the name of the union that Cesar Chavez started? What is the purpose of a union and why was this particular union formed?

2. Analyze how Mario Molina's work helped improve the environment. What did his research prove and what changes did his discoveries bring about?

3. What is the "Great Wall of Los Angeles"? Who designed it? What is its purpose?
