



Grade Level: K  
Subject: Social Studies

# A Day at Powwow

## ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

- Lifeways
- Language

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to describe what a Native American powwow is
- Students will be able to describe the events at a Native American powwow
- Students will be able to compare and contrast Native American celebrations with the celebrations in their own lives.

## CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICES

- Connecting to the lives of students
- Connecting to students' personal families and family members
- Preserving and honoring cultural history
- Music

## ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on their participation during whole class discussions and their proficient completion of the celebration drawing.

## Overview

Every culture has ceremonial celebrations that their people participate in. In the Native American culture, one of the most widespread celebrations is powwow. In this lesson, students will learn about powwows, what they mean to Native peoples, and how they are similar/different than the celebrations they have in their own lives.

## MATERIALS

- [Powwow Video Week 1](#)
- [Grand Ronde Powwow Slide Deck](#)
- Bowwow Powwow by Brenda Child ([read aloud](#))

## LOGISTICS

- Where does this activity take place?  
**Classroom**
- How are the students organized?

**Whole Class**      Teams: 3-5

Pairs                      **Individually**

## TIME REQUIRED

2, 30 minute sessions

## STANDARDS

### Oregon Social Science Standards

**Geography K.11** Examine culturally significant traditions, celebrations, days, and places including those from cultures that are currently and historically marginalized.

### Oregon Visual Arts Standards

**Kindergarten VA.10.CO1.K** Use personal experiences and choices in making artworks.

**Kindergarten VA.8.RE2.K** . Interpret art by identifying subject matter and describing relevant details.

## Background for Teachers

A Native American powwow is a cultural event that features group singing and dancing by men, women and children. They are a time of celebration where cultural traditions are passed down from generation to generation. They are a time to preserve traditions and honor the history of tribal cultures, which have battled through many years of oppression and assimilation to remain where they are today. There are many roles at a powwow event: singers, dancers, drummers, spectators, artisan vendors, food vendors, and spectators to name a few!

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde hosts at least two powwows each year. The first takes place in July and is named the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow. It honors all military veterans and also coincides with the CTGR Veteran's Summit where veterans can receive services.

CTGR also holds the Annual Contest Powwow each year. This event is designed for powwow competitors who specialize in their style of drum, song, and dance.

## VOCABULARY

- **celebration** - A festival featuring arts and events specific to a particular culture
- **regalia** - the traditional and often sacred clothing, accessories and artifacts worn or carried during various ceremonies

## Opening

Begin by showing students the Chinuk Wawa Education Program YouTube video “Powwow Video Week 1” (<https://youtu.be/BvqA6kywg2o>)

Discuss the video with students:

- *Have they ever attended a powwow?*
- *Have they ever heard the music in this video?*
- *Does the dancing in the video remind them of anything?*

## Activity

### PART ONE

1. Explain to students that they will be learning about a popular Native American celebration, a powwow.
2. Use the Grand Ronde Powwow Slide Deck to speak to students about Grand Ronde Powwows.
3. The video on the last slide comes from the CTGR newspaper, Smoke Signals, and allows students to preview the 2019 Annual Contest Powwow. After viewing the video, discuss with the students what they are seeing.
  - a. *Who is in the video?* (Native Americans)
  - b. *What are the people doing in the video?* (Dancing, Drumming, Singing, etc.)
  - c. *What do you notice about their regalia?* (Different styles, colors, materials, etc.)
  - d. *Does this remind you of any traditions or ceremonies in your family?*

### PART TWO

1. Review powwows with students.
  - a. *What culture are they from?*
  - b. *Who participates?*
  - c. *What do they do at powwow?*
  - d. *Why do they have powwows?*
2. Explain to students that they will be hearing a story from a different Native American tribe, the Ojibwe Tribe in Canada. They also have powwows.
3. Play the MNHS Storytime video “[Bowwow Powwow](#)” by Brenda Child. Stop the video throughout if needed to discuss with students.
4. After the video is complete, compare and contrast with students. Ask them to think about the CTGR powwows and the Ojibwe powwows. How are they the same? How are they different?

## Closure

After students have finished discussing the Native American celebration of a powwow, have students draw a picture of a celebration they have in their own family or culture. Work with students to write the name of the celebration at the top of their drawing.

## Differentiation

- Teachers can purchase a hard copy of Bowwow Powwow to read aloud to students instead of using the video
- Teachers can use other Native American powwow books for the PART TWO of the lesson (Josie Dances by Denise Lajimodiere, Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith, Powwow Day by Traci Sorell)

## Extension

- Teachers can show students more videos from powwows, including dances and drumming/singing. Suggestions:
  - [Native Hoop Dancer Performs Thunderbird Formation | If Cities Could Dance](#)
  - [Bear Creek Pow Wow Drum Group](#)
  - [Men's Grass Dance - 2014 Gathering of Nations PowWow](#)
  - [Pow Wow Women's Jingle Dress Dance High Quality](#)

## Notes/Other

- While students work consider playing this YouTube playlist of Kids' Powwow Songs: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy\\_kQINQpAWWUdFUL4AH-9BiOFZtWB\\_-ZOtU](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kQINQpAWWUdFUL4AH-9BiOFZtWB_-ZOtU)

## Appendix

Powwow Video Week 1: <https://youtu.be/BvqA6kywq2o>

Grand Ronde Powwow Slide Deck:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1mg1sl9CzG2KkqO6s00tv455b497RT4fLHBwM3w41B74/edit?usp=sharing>

MNHS Storytime: "Bowwow Powwow" by Brenda Child (English Version):

<https://youtu.be/lpBfWk46JA4>