

November - Native American Heritage Month

November – A time to recognize and celebrate Native Americans’ rich and ancient cultural heritage.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the government department that provides services to the **566 Federally recognized tribes** in the USA. The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes and Alaska Native entities as provided by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, court decisions and Federal statutes.

Native Americans have contributed greatly to the establishment and growth of America. Their contributions include agricultural practices, politics, moving art work and powerful music.

During November, we should also remember the painful history they have endured and the many struggles they have overcome.



Chief Joseph

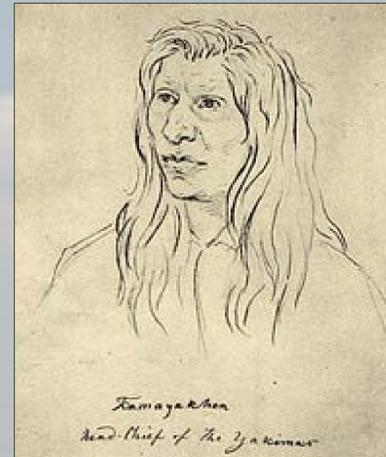
Chief Joseph March 3, 1840 – September 21, 1904

- Born *Hin-mah-too-lat-kekt* in the Wallowa Valley, Oregon. His name meant “Thunder Rolling Down a Mountain”. He was known as Joseph after his Nez Percé father Joseph the Elder who took the name when he was baptized in 1838
- His father’s influence created peace with white settlers and he signed the Treaty of 1855 which established a new reservation for the Nez Percé.
- Gold was discovered on the reservation and white prospectors entered their land. The US government took back millions of acres.
- Joseph the Elder denounced the Americans and refused to sign for new boundaries or to leave the Wallowa Valley.
- Chief Joseph took over as leader after his father’s death in 1871.
- Tensions mounted and a new treaty was to be signed, however white settlers were killed in a Nez Percé raid.
- Led a band of 700 people (200 warriors) on a four month long retreat towards Canada, battling against 2000 U.S. troops.
- Fall 1877 Surrendered with only 87 warriors left. His People were starving and exhausted.
- On the surrender, he delivered one of the great speeches in American history.

"I am tired of fighting," he said. "Our chiefs are killed. Looking Glass is dead. Toohoolhoolzote is dead. The old men are all dead. It is the young men who say, 'Yes' or 'No.' He who led the young men [Olikut] is dead. It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills, and have no blankets, no food. No one knows where they are—perhaps freezing to death. I want to have time to look for my children, and see how many of them I can find. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs! I am tired. My heart is sick and sad. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

Information from:
http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=10096
<http://www.biography.com/people/chief-joseph>
<http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/>
Information courtesy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

Chief Kamiakin



Chief Kamiakin (ca. 1800 – 1877)

- ❖ Born on the shores of the Snake River *Com-mus-ni* his mother and member of the Yakamas and his father, T'siyiyak, from the Palouse tribe.
- ❖ His clan life centered on a “seasonal round” - wintering in the Kittitas and Ahtanum valleys, spring root gathering, summer salmon fishing on the rivers and fall berry gathering in the mountains.
- ❖ Was a leader of the Yakama tribe
- ❖ The first to use irrigation and grow crops of potatoes and other vegetables in the Yakima Valley
- ❖ Raised vast herds of horses and cattle.
- ❖ Reluctantly signed the Treaty of 1855 and later maintained he had been deceived.
- ❖ Created a Confederation of Tribes to resist the encroachment of white settlers
- ❖ Resisted the Treaty and opposed reservations
- ❖ After leading others in battles, he was injured in 1858, fled to Montana and lived as an outcast.
- ❖ Never returned to the Yakama Reservation, saying he did not recognize the treaty that formed it.
- ❖ Died at Rock Lake in 1877

Chief Seattle



Chief Seattle born Siʔal 178? – 1866

- Born on the Kitsap Peninsula to mother, *Scholitza*, from the Duwamish tribe and father, *Schweabe*, of the Suquamish Tribe.
- Leader of the Salish tribes when American Europeans arrived the Seattle area in the 1850s.
- Baptized “Noah” by Catholic missionaries he was known as firm friend to the white settlers
- Signed the Point Elliott (Mukilteo) Treaty of 1855, which gave up tribal claims to most of the area land
- Was a proponent of peace and wanted his people and the new settlers to live in harmony
- Witnessed the birth of a new town, which was named after him - Seattle
- Retired to Suquamish Reservation at Port Madison and died there in June 1866