



The Arboretum for Educators

Resources for Teachers, Students, and Families

November 2024

Native American Heritage Month



Introduce your students to a new way of viewing the natural world. The on-going accumulation of knowledge, practice and belief about relationships between living beings in a specific ecosystem that is acquired by indigenous people over hundreds or thousands of years through direct contact with the environment is known as **TEK: Traditional Ecological Knowledge**. This knowledge is passed down from generation to generation and is central to indigenous identity.

Bringing students outdoors is a way for them to begin accumulating knowledge

of plant-animal-human interactions and consider these important relationships during any time of the year.

Learn to lead outdoor, nature based lessons from [Indigenous STEAM](#), a collaborative that co-designs and shares educational materials utilizing Indigenous knowledge systems. Their learning activities include **seasonal observations, building relationships with plant relatives through walking, sketching plant relatives, and understanding plant cycles.**

Supplement outdoor lessons with books written by Indigenous authors. [Tribal Nations Maps](#), in addition to offering detailed maps of ancestral lands in many versions and from many regions throughout North and South America, has a [curated book list](#) broken down by age levels and with brief summaries.

First Nations Development Institute also has a pdf [book list](#) that is worth reviewing. And why not teach some [culinary science with their selected recipes](#)?

Finally, [IllumiNative](#) has [lesson plans](#) available to download for students in PreK-Grade 2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 6-8. Try “The Transformation of Water”, “Make Your Own Bullroarer” or “Native Science: Making a Salt Stick.”



Happy Birthday, FSE!

[Field Study Experiences](#) is turning 40! Read about its inception, growth, and what it means today to countless students and teachers from the Boston Public Schools.

[Read More](#)



Special Opportunity

Middle and High School students who participate in a [PlantingScience](#) session experience authentic hands-on science investigations mentored by real plant scientists along the way! This free enriching program is a perfect way to inspire students to think and act like botanists while learning from experts. Early bird application deadline is Dec. 15 or Jan 15, 2025 for final deadline.



The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, 125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130

Click [here](#) to read in your browser.

Received this email as a forward? [Subscribe here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#) from receiving Arboretum for Educators emails.