Annotated Bibliography

Influential Native American Women

By

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Introduction:

Teaching correct Native American history is something that has been left off the curriculum maps. So as I plan to begin a unit on this important part of our country’s history I have chosen to focus on women. Women were held in high esteem in the Native American culture but we never hear about any of that. I have put together a very small list of sources for both teachers and students to use as they look into the lives of the REAL Native Americans. I have included books on Sacagawea and Pocahontas which we have all heard of, but these are not the Disney versions but a more reality based text to hopefully get out the real lives of these women. My hope is that teachers will use these sources to supplement any program they may have on Native Americans in order to better facilitate a real telling of these people. I want children to be taught what is real vs. what is the fiction we see in movies and read in some books.
Bibliography:


This book is only forty-seven pages long so it can be easily read by any student as well as his or her teacher. It gives more detail about the life of Pocahontas beyond what we know from the Disney version of her life. It includes photos of historic art showing her and important people and places in her life, along with accounts from John Smith to Queen Anne.


This is a collection of sixteen works that explains the use of research methods and sources looking into the lives of Native American women. This is to be used by anyone wishing to do research into the topic of Native American women and the things that influenced their lives; things such as religion, colonization, gender, and economics.


Written by a Choctaw woman, this book is a look into the issues facing Native American women today. I chose to include this book in my bibliography because the issues they are facing today come from things they faced when Euro-Americans first encountered the Indigenous peoples of North America.


The roles and responsibilities of Cherokee women in the 18th and 19th centuries are discussed in this book. It looks at her roles involving gender relations during a time of great cultural change and that by maintaining their traditional roles they were able to adapt to the changes being made.


Another set of essays, fourteen, that look into the many roles played by Native American women. There are essays on both Pocahontas and Sacagawea that give a truer understanding of the contributions these two and other Native American women made to the development of our country.

Ten tribes are represented in this book dealing with the idea that the colonization of America led to a loss of women's power. The essays here discuss the changing roles in motherhood and differing genders.


This book is about the fur trade and the impact Native American women had on it when they married French fur traders. It talks about Catholicism and mixed-blood kinship. She discusses the integration of these very different life values and what effect that had on the people of the Great Lakes Region.


This biography is a book that can be read by both students and teachers. It is not only about the time Sacagawea spent as the interpreter for Lewis and Clark on their expedition but it also includes her childhood, her later life, and the legacy she left behind after her death. This book includes photos, a timeline, and a bibliography.


While this book is about the conquest of Mexico, I wanted to include it in this bibliography because it shows how the stereotyping we are all guilty of has changed the facts of a real human being's life. It is about Malintzin, an indigenous woman, and how she lived her life as a translator for Hernando Cortez as he dealt with the Aztecs in the 1500's.


This biography of Pocahontas shows not only were her people not blood thirsty savages, but smart, sophisticated, diplomatic people dealing with a more powerful European invader. They knew they were out manned and out gunned but continued to use their knowledge of the world as they knew it to their advantage.
Conclusion:

In this course I have learned that I am very guilty of stereotyping Native Americans. This is a fact I am not very proud of and at the same time I have learned that a lot of these stereotypes were learned through what I was taught as a child. I hope that by putting together these resources for teachers to use in their classes these same stereotypes can be changed. Women in general have been given a rough way to go in life whether they are Native American or not. So I chose this topic hoping to give at least one group of women the credit they deserve.