

# Alphabet Book of the North American Indians

Lesson Overview | [Preparation](#) | [Procedure](#) | [Evaluation](#)

## Overview

This Learning Experience is based on the suggested activity on page 20 of the book, *The American Memory Collections from A to Z, Grade 4-6* by Gail Petri. Students apply graphic arts principles to create an alphabet book using Microsoft Word, focusing on aspects of American Indian culture for each letter of the alphabet.

## Objectives

Students will:

- Know that many characteristics can be used to understand different cultures.
- Apply concepts of graphic design to create a book.
- Apply knowledge of Social Studies curriculum to photographs to create an appropriate statement for a work of art.
- Use knowledge of computer technology as a medium to apply principles of graphic design to a work of art.

## Time Required

5 class periods of 50 minutes

## Recommended Grade Level

Grade 5

## Topic

Native North American Indians

## Era

US 7 - The emergence of modern America (1890-1930)

## Format of Primary Sources Used

Prints

# Standards

## **National Arts Visual Arts Standards: Grades 5 – 8**

Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes

b. intentionally take advantage of the qualities and characteristics of \*art media, techniques, and processes to enhance communication of their experiences and ideas

Using knowledge of \*structures and functions

c. select and use the qualities of structures and functions of art to improve communication of their ideas

## **Social Studies Standards**

Virginia: USI.3.b.1.

Students are expected to know that geography and climate affected how various American Indian (First American) groups met their basic needs.

## **National Educational Technology Standards for Students**

Technology productivity tools

Students use technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.

# Credits

Ruth Streeter, Barrett Elementary School, Arlington Public Schools, Virginia

# Preparation

[Lesson Overview](#) | [Preparation](#) | [Procedure](#) | [Evaluation](#)

## Materials Used

[Venn diagram.doc](#)

### Book:

Petri, G. (2003). *The American Memory Collections from A to Z Grades 4-6*. Worthington, OH: Linworth Publishing (p.20).

## Resources Used

### Library of Congress



Library of Congress: American Memory, Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indian: Photographic Images (1900). [Alphabetical list of all subject terms, including tribes, names of people, and places.](#)


Library of Congress: American Memory. [Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indian.](#) (1900).

### Other Online Sources

# Procedure

[Lesson Overview](#) | [Preparation](#) | **Procedure** | [Evaluation](#)

## Activity

Step		Resource(s)
1	Assign each student 2 letters of the alphabet. Use more challenging letters (like X and Z) for advanced students.	
2	Direct students to the Curtis Collection at the Library of Congress.	<a href="#">Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indian: Photographic Images</a>
3	Tell students to find a minimum of three images that start with their assigned letter. Teach students how to copy the images from the Web site into a Microsoft word document. Ask students to print their documents.	 Browse by Subject (Alphabetical listing)
4	Collect students' print outs of their photographs.	
5	Address the concept of layout with the students. Their work should show balance, unity, and flow. Show students how to crop and resize images and add a text box to describe their picture.	
6	Give students ample time to complete their pages using a computer.	
7	Print all finished pages and bind the class' work into an alphabet book.	
8	Read the book to the class, and have students complete a Venn diagram (or other organizer) answering the question, "How do groups identify themselves?"	<a href="#">venn diagram.doc</a>
9	Arrange for students to read their ABC book to another class.	

# Evaluation

[Lesson Overview](#) | [Preparation](#) | [Procedure](#) | **Evaluation**

1. The final product showed that the students became proficient graphic artists by practicing page layout, sizing type, importing photos from the web into Word Processing/Drawing, and resizing the photos.
2. The Venn diagram indicated that students were able to observe details and think about aspects of culture.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**How do groups identify themselves?**

Native North American Indians

Ourselves in Our Community

