

November Facts of the Day 2014



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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Day	Fact	Source
1	<p>Sequoyah, a Cherokee who was born around 1776 in present-day Tennessee, was a silversmith who joined the U.S. military during the War of 1812. Seeing how the White soldiers communicated via the written word, he invented a written alphabet for the Cherokee language, using 85 written symbols to represent syllables. He later became a statesman and diplomat for the Cherokee people.</p>	<p>http://www.sequoyahmuseum.org/index.cfm/m/5</p>
2	<p>Around 1804, the Poncas began to practice the ceremony that led to the pow-wow. They called it the Hethuska. They passed it to the Kaw, who gave it to the Osage. Then the Omaha incorporated the ceremony, which was passed to the Lakota (Sioux) tribe. It became popular in the late 1890s. During this time, the Omaha, or "Grass" dance as it was then called, spread quickly. The Grass dancers danced for the purpose of dancing itself, not religious ceremony.</p>	<p>http://library.nau.edu/speccoll/exhibits/indigenous_voices/navajo/powwow.html</p>
3	<p>The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was established in 1824, and it is the oldest bureau of the United States Department of the Interior. It serves about 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The BIA is responsible for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals estates held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives.</p>	<p>http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/index.htm</p>
4	<p>When the governmental authority of tribes was first challenged in the 1830s, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall articulated the fundamental principle that has guided the evolution of federal Indian law to the present: Tribes possess a nationhood status and retain inherent powers of self-government.</p>	<p>http://www.bia.gov/FAQs/index.htm</p>

5	<p>Ohiyesa, also known as Dr. Charles Alexander Eastman, was born in 1858 on a Santee Sioux reservation in Minnesota. He graduated from Dartmouth College then from medical school. He worked as a doctor for the Indian Health Service on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where he treated those injured in the U.S. Army attack on Lakota chief Big Foot's band at Wounded Knee. In 1910, he helped to establish the Boy Scouts of America.</p>	<p>http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/1900/peopleevents/pandeAMEX38.html</p>
6	<p>American Indians served on both sides of the Civil War. Among the most well-known are Brigadier General Ely S. Parker (Seneca), an aide to Union General Ulysses S. Grant who recorded the terms of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's surrender that ended the war, and Brigadier General Stand Watie (Cherokee), the last of the Confederate generals to cease fighting after the surrender was concluded.</p>	<p>http://www.bia.gov/FAQs/index.htm</p>
7	<p>On November 29, 1864, about 700 volunteers from the Colorado Cavalry led by Col. John Chivington attacked a Cheyenne and Arapaho village by Sand Creek in Colorado, killing at least 150 Indians, most of whom were women, children, or elderly. About 500 people were camped at the site, led by Cheyenne chief Black Kettle, who believed they were under U.S. government protection. The Sand Creek Massacre was soon recognized as a national disgrace and condemned by three federal investigations.</p>	<p>http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2001/summer/sand-creek-massacre-1.html</p>
8	<p>Scouting the enemy was recognized as a particular skill of the Native American soldier. In 1866, the U.S. Army established its Indian Scouts to exploit this aptitude. The Scouts were active in the American West in the late 1800s and early 1900s, accompanying Gen. John J. Pershing's expedition to Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916. They were deactivated in 1947 when their last member retired from the Army in ceremonies at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.</p>	<p>http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm</p>

9	<p>Will Rogers, who was part Cherokee, was born in 1879 in Oologah, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). He grew up on a family ranch among Native Americans and White settlers. As a teenager, he was hired to perform roping tricks in Wild West shows and eventually became a Broadway star. He later acted in motion pictures and earned national acclaim as a writer of both books and newspaper columns.</p>	<p>http://www.biography.com/people/will-rogers-40870#career</p>
10	<p>Polingaysi Qoyawayma (Elizabeth Q. White) was born in 1892. Educated at boarding schools away from the reservation, she was taught to renounce her Hopi culture and language. She became a teacher for Hopi children and taught concepts such as math and science by using Hopi legends and language, thereby allowing children to retain their native cultural and language ties as well as instill a sense of pride in their identity.</p>	<p>http://library.nau.edu/speccoll/exhibits/indigenous_voices/hopi/leaders.html</p>
11	<p>On September 28, 1915, Congress of the American Indian Association President Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, issued a proclamation that declared the second Saturday of each May American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as U.S. citizens. In 1924, Indians were given citizenship, and in 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month.</p>	<p>http://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/</p>
12	<p>More than 8,000 American Indian soldiers, 6,000 of them volunteers, served during World War I. Their patriotism moved Congress to pass the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924, which extended American citizenship to all American Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States.</p>	<p>http://www.bia.gov/FAQs/index.htm</p>

13	<p>More than 44,000 American Indians, out of a total population of less than 350,000, served with distinction between 1941 and 1945 in both European and Pacific theaters of war. Native American men and women on the home front also showed an intense desire to serve their country, and they were an integral part of the war effort. More than 40,000 Indian people left their reservations to work in ordnance depots, factories, and other war industries.</p>	<p>http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm</p>
14	<p>Alaska has about 20 distinct languages, which belong to two main language groups. The two groupings include Eskimo-Aleut and Athabaskan-Eyak-Tlingit. Since its creation by the Alaska Legislature in 1972, the Alaska Native Language Center has researched and documented Alaska's Native languages.</p>	<p>http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/dcra/AKNativeLanguagePreservationAdvisoryCouncil/Languages.aspx</p>
15	<p>The Alaska State Council on the Arts established the Traditional Native Arts Program in March 1980. The program's major responsibility is to serve rural Alaska Natives and improve Native artists' ability to achieve their creative goals. Protecting underserved and endangered Alaska Native art forms and increasing arts programming for Alaska Native people are some priorities of the program.</p>	<p>http://education.alaska.gov/aksca/native.html</p>
16	<p>In recent years, many Alaska Native people have migrated from rural to urban Alaska. Based on comparisons of the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census data, the Alaska Native population in Alaska increased a total of 13.72 percent. Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau combined have increased in total population by 46.46 percent among those who identified themselves as Native, while the rural areas have lost 16.43 percent.</p>	<p>http://commerce.alaska.gov/dnn/dcra/AKNativeLanguagePreservationAdvisoryCouncil/Population.aspx</p>
17	<p>In the 2010 U.S. Census, tribal groupings with 100,000 or more responses were Cherokee (819,105), Navajo (332,129), Choctaw (195,764), Mexican American Indian (175,494), Chippewa (170,742), Sioux (170,110), Apache (111,810), and Blackfeet (105,304).</p>	<p>http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/aian.html#Demographics</p>

18	<p>In 2010, there were 15 states with more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native residents. The state with the largest American Indian and Alaska Native population was California (723,225), followed by Oklahoma (482,760) and Arizona (353,386). The state with the highest percentage of it's population being American Indian and Alaska Native was Alaska (19.5%).</p>	<p>http://www.cdc.gov/minorityhealth/populations/REMP/aian.html#Demographics</p>
19	<p>Of all American Indians and Alaska Natives, alone or in combination, 22 percent lived in American Indian areas or Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas in 2010. These American Indian areas include federal American Indian reservations and off-reservation trust lands, Oklahoma tribal statistical areas, tribal designated statistical areas, state American Indian reservations, and state designated American Indian statistical areas.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2013/cb13-ff26.html</p>
20	<p>According to American Community Survey, the nation's population of American Indians and Alaska Natives, including those of more than one race was 5.2 million in 2012. They made up about 2 percent of the total population. Of this total, about 49 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native only, and about 51 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native in combination with one or more other races.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2013/cb13-ff26.html</p>
21	<p>In 2012, there were 161,686 single-race American Indian and Alaska Native veterans of the U.S. armed forces, according to the American Community Survey.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2013/cb13-ff26.html</p>
22	<p>According to the American Community survey, in 2012, the median household income of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native households was \$35,310, compared to \$51,371 for the nation as a whole. Additionally, 29.1 percent of single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives were in poverty in 2012, the highest rate of any race group. For the nation as a whole, the poverty rate was 15.9 percent.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2013/cb13-ff26.html</p>

23	<p>According to the 2012 American Community Survey, of all single-race American Indians and Alaska Natives 25 and older, 78.8 percent had at least a high school diploma, GED certificate, or alternative credential. In addition, 13.5 percent obtained a bachelor's degree or higher. In comparison, 86.4 percent of the total U.S. population had a high school diploma or equivalent and 29.1 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.</p>	<p>http://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2013/cb13-ff26.html</p>
24	<p>On November 20, 2013, American Indian code talkers from 566 tribes were honored with Congressional Silver Medals, and leaders from the tribes' 33 nations received Congressional Gold Medals. These medals recognized the contributions of the code talkers during World War I and World War II, when they used their native languages to encode secret or sensitive information so that the enemy could not decipher radio transmissions.</p>	<p>http://www.army.mil/article/115546/Congress_recognizes_American_Indian_code_talkers_for_wartime_service/</p>
25	<p>In December 2013, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 2319. The bill allows for construction of a Native American Veterans' Memorial on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC.</p>	<p>http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2013/12/12/ncai-applauds-house-of-representatives-for-passing-bill-allowing-for-native-american-veterans-memorial</p>
26	<p>Keith Harper, a member of the Cherokee Nation, became the first member of a federally recognized Indian tribe to serve at the U.S. Ambassador level when he was confirmed as United States Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2014. In his career as an attorney, he has focused on issues involving injustice against Native peoples.</p>	<p>http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2014/06/03/ncai-congratulates-keith-harper-on-his-confirmation-to-serve-as-us-representative-to-the-un-human-rights-council</p>
27	<p>November is National American Indian Heritage Month, honoring American Indians and Alaska Natives. For 2014, the Society of American Indian Government Employees has selected the theme <i>Native Pride and Spirit: Yesterday, Today and Forever</i>.</p>	<p>http://saige.org/</p>

28	<p>Historically, American Indians have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. The reasons are deeply rooted in traditional cultural values that drive them to serve their country. These include a proud warrior tradition, best exemplified by the following qualities said to be inherent to most, if not all, Native American societies: strength, honor, pride, devotion, and wisdom. These qualities fit perfectly with military tradition.</p>	<p>http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq61-1.htm</p>
29	<p>A federally recognized tribe is an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. These tribes have certain inherent rights of self-government (tribal sovereignty) and are entitled to receive certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of their special relationship with the United States. There are currently 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages.</p>	<p>http://www.bia.gov/FAQs/index.htm</p>
30	<p>A diverse and multifaceted cultural and educational enterprise, the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is an active and visible component of the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex. The NMAI cares for one of the world's most expansive collections of Native artifacts, including objects, photographs, archives, and media covering the entire Western Hemisphere, from the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.</p>	<p>http://nmai.si.edu/about/</p>