

american indian stories

American Indian Stories: A Journey Through Tradition and Culture

american indian stories have long been a vital part of the cultural fabric of Indigenous peoples across North America. These stories are more than just tales; they are a living connection to history, spirituality, and the natural world. Passed down through countless generations, these narratives offer a window into the rich traditions, values, and worldviews of American Indian tribes. Exploring these stories allows us to appreciate the depth and diversity of Native American culture while understanding the lessons they have imparted for centuries.

The Importance of American Indian Stories in Indigenous Culture

At their core, american indian stories serve multiple purposes. They are educational tools, entertainment, and a means of preserving history. For many tribes, storytelling is a sacred tradition where elders share their wisdom, ensuring that younger generations remain connected to their heritage. These stories often explain the origins of the world, natural phenomena, and the responsibilities humans have within the ecosystem.

American Indian storytelling is deeply intertwined with oral tradition. Unlike written histories, these tales rely on spoken word, performance, and sometimes song or dance. This oral nature allows stories to evolve and adapt, reflecting the changing realities of the communities that hold them dear. Moreover, storytelling gatherings foster communal bonds, strengthening social ties and cultural identity.

Common Themes in American Indian Stories

While each tribe has its unique stories, there are shared motifs and themes that recur across different cultures. Understanding these common threads can enrich our appreciation of the narratives and their significance.

Creation Myths and Origin Stories

Many American Indian stories begin with creation myths that describe how the universe, earth, and humanity came into being. For example, the Navajo people tell of the emergence of their ancestors from different worlds beneath the earth, while the Iroquois share tales of Sky Woman, who fell from the heavens and created the earth on the back of a giant turtle.

These origin stories are not mere myths but serve as foundational explanations for the tribe's relationship with the land and their role within it.

Animal Characters and Trickster Tales

Animals feature prominently in American Indian stories, often embodying traits that teach moral lessons or explain natural behaviors. The trickster figure, commonly represented by animals like Coyote, Raven, or Rabbit, is a beloved character across many tribes. Trickster tales can be humorous and mischievous but typically offer insights into human nature, ethics, and the consequences of one's actions.

For instance, Coyote stories in the Southwest often illustrate cunning and folly, serving as cautionary tales that encourage critical thinking and humility.

Spiritual and Nature Connections

Many stories emphasize the sacred relationship between humans and the natural world. The belief that all elements of nature—animals, plants, rivers, and mountains—possess spirits is a recurring theme. These stories often advocate respect, stewardship, and harmony with the environment.

For example, the Lakota people tell stories about the White Buffalo Calf Woman, a spiritual figure who brought sacred knowledge and rituals, underscoring the interconnectedness of life.

Regional Variations in American Indian Storytelling

The diversity of American Indian stories reflects the vast geographic and cultural landscape of Native American tribes. From the Arctic to the Southwest, each region has distinct storytelling traditions influenced by the environment, history, and social structures.

Stories of the Plains Tribes

The tribes of the Great Plains, such as the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Blackfoot, often tell stories centered around the buffalo, which was central to their survival. These narratives celebrate bravery, honor, and the sacredness of the buffalo hunt. Vision quests, a spiritual journey to seek guidance, also feature prominently in Plains stories.

Northwest Coast Narratives

The coastal tribes of the Pacific Northwest, including the Tlingit and Haida, are known for their elaborate storytelling involving totem animals and clan histories. Their stories often explain social structures and the origins of their artistic symbols, such as the totem poles.

Southwestern Legends

In the Southwest, tribes like the Hopi and Navajo share stories deeply connected to the desert landscape. These tales often focus on the cycles of nature, ceremonies, and the teachings of ancestral spirits. Sandpainting and ritual storytelling are integral to preserving these narratives.

Preserving and Sharing American Indian Stories Today

In the modern world, preserving american indian stories is both a challenge and a priority. The impact of colonization, forced assimilation, and loss of language has threatened the continuity of many oral traditions. However, Indigenous communities and scholars are actively working to revitalize storytelling practices.

The Role of Language in Storytelling

Language is the heartbeat of storytelling. Many american indian stories are tied intricately to the original languages of the tribes. Efforts to preserve and teach Indigenous languages are critical for maintaining the authenticity and nuances of these narratives. Language immersion programs and digital archives are helping younger generations reconnect with their cultural heritage.

Storytelling in Schools and Media

Increasingly, american indian stories are being integrated into educational curricula to promote cultural understanding and respect. Native storytellers are also using contemporary platforms like podcasts, films, and books to reach broader audiences while retaining traditional elements.

Tips for Engaging with American Indian Stories Respectfully

If you are interested in exploring american indian stories, it's important to approach them with respect and sensitivity:

- **Seek authentic sources:** Look for stories shared by Indigenous authors, elders, or cultural organizations.
- **Understand context:** Recognize that many stories have sacred meanings and should not be trivialized or commercialized.
- **Support Indigenous voices:** Purchase books and media created by Native storytellers to honor their perspectives.
- **Participate in community events:** Attend storytelling festivals or cultural gatherings when possible to experience the oral tradition firsthand.

The Enduring Legacy of American Indian Stories

American Indian stories continue to inspire and teach, offering timeless wisdom about life, nature, and community. They remind us of the resilience of Indigenous cultures and their profound understanding of the world around them. Whether it's through the lessons of a trickster's escapades or the spiritual guidance of a creation myth, these stories foster a deep appreciation for diversity and interconnectedness.

Engaging with american indian stories invites us to listen carefully, honor the voices of the past, and carry forward traditions that enrich our shared human experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are American Indian stories?

American Indian stories are traditional narratives passed down through generations by Indigenous peoples of the Americas, often including myths, legends, folklore, and oral histories that explain natural phenomena, cultural values, and tribal heritage.

Why are American Indian stories important?

American Indian stories are important because they preserve the history, culture, beliefs, and values of Indigenous communities, helping to maintain identity and educate both tribal members and outsiders about their heritage.

What common themes are found in American Indian stories?

Common themes in American Indian stories include creation myths, the relationship between humans and nature, animal spirits, moral lessons, hero journeys, and the significance of respect, community, and balance.

Which American Indian tribes have well-known storytelling traditions?

Many tribes have rich storytelling traditions, including the Navajo, Cherokee, Lakota, Hopi, Iroquois, and Ojibwe, each with unique stories reflecting their distinct cultures and environments.

How have American Indian stories been shared traditionally?

Traditionally, American Indian stories have been shared orally through storytelling sessions, ceremonies, songs, and dances, often performed by elders or designated storytellers within the community.

Are American Indian stories still relevant today?

Yes, American Indian stories remain relevant as they continue to educate new generations, strengthen cultural identity, and promote understanding and respect for Indigenous worldviews in contemporary society.

Can American Indian stories be found in written form?

Many American Indian stories have been transcribed and published in books, often collected by anthropologists, historians, or Indigenous authors, though oral tradition remains the primary and most authentic form of transmission.

How do American Indian stories influence modern literature and media?

American Indian stories influence modern literature and media by inspiring authors, filmmakers, and artists to incorporate Indigenous perspectives, themes, and characters, promoting cultural diversity and awareness.

Where can I find authentic American Indian stories to read or listen to?

Authentic American Indian stories can be found in tribal cultural centers, libraries, museums, reputable books by Indigenous authors, and online platforms dedicated to Indigenous storytelling and oral history preservation.

Additional Resources

American Indian Stories: Exploring the Rich Tapestry of Indigenous Narratives

american indian stories offer a profound window into the cultures, values, and histories of Native

American peoples. These narratives, passed down through generations, are not merely tales for entertainment but serve as vital repositories of indigenous knowledge, spirituality, and identity. In an era where cultural preservation faces numerous challenges, understanding and appreciating American Indian stories is essential for both historical insight and contemporary cultural dialogue.

The Significance of American Indian Stories in Indigenous Cultures

American Indian stories encompass a wide range of oral traditions, myths, legends, and folklore that vary significantly across tribes and regions. From the Navajo to the Cherokee, Lakota to the Hopi, each group has developed a distinct narrative style that reflects their environment, social structure, and cosmology. These stories often explain natural phenomena, teach moral lessons, and preserve historical memory, acting as educational tools for younger generations.

Unlike written histories common in Western traditions, many Native American stories rely on oral transmission, which emphasizes performance, memory, and communal participation. This oral nature means that stories are dynamic, adapting over time while retaining core themes and messages. The fluidity of these narratives also highlights the importance of elders and storytellers in Native communities, as custodians of cultural heritage.

Core Themes and Motifs in American Indian Stories

Across diverse tribes, certain thematic elements recur in American Indian stories, underscoring shared values and worldviews:

- **Connection to Nature:** Many stories emphasize the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the environment, reflecting a deep respect for the natural world.

- **Creation Myths:** Tales explaining the origins of the earth, animals, and humanity often serve to establish a tribe's place within the cosmos.
- **Trickster Figures:** Characters like Coyote or Raven appear frequently as complex tricksters whose actions teach lessons through cunning and mischief.
- **Heroic Quests:** Stories of bravery and endurance illustrate the values of courage, perseverance, and community responsibility.
- **Spiritual Teachings:** Many narratives incorporate spiritual beliefs, offering guidance on rituals, ethics, and the sacred.

These motifs are not isolated; they intertwine to create layered stories that function on multiple levels—educational, spiritual, and social.

Historical Context and Evolution of Indigenous Storytelling

The transmission of American Indian stories has confronted significant disruptions, particularly following European colonization. Forced displacement, assimilation policies, and the suppression of indigenous languages threatened the survival of many storytelling traditions. Despite these challenges, Native communities have actively preserved and revitalized their narratives through various efforts.

The 20th and 21st centuries have seen a resurgence of interest in Native American literature and oral history. Anthropologists and ethnographers initially recorded many stories, though sometimes through a colonial lens that misinterpreted or decontextualized them. More recent scholarship and indigenous authorship prioritize authenticity and cultural sensitivity, promoting stories told by Native voices themselves.

Today, American Indian stories appear in diverse media: books, films, theater, and digital platforms. This expansion allows traditional narratives to reach broader audiences while maintaining cultural integrity. Importantly, many Native communities view storytelling as a living practice rather than static folklore, ensuring its relevance across generations.

Comparing Oral Tradition and Written Literature

While oral storytelling remains central, written literature by Native American authors has become a powerful tool for cultural expression and political assertion. Writers such as N. Scott Momaday, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Louise Erdrich have incorporated traditional stories into contemporary novels and poetry, bridging oral and literary forms.

This duality offers distinct advantages and challenges:

1. **Oral Tradition:** Allows communal participation, flexibility, and context-specific performance but can be vulnerable to loss if not actively maintained.
2. **Written Literature:** Provides permanence and wider dissemination but risks losing the performative and interactive essence of oral narratives.

The interplay between these modes enriches the preservation and adaptation of American Indian stories, enabling them to thrive within and beyond indigenous contexts.

Prominent American Indian Stories and Their Cultural Impact

Several iconic stories have transcended tribal boundaries, gaining recognition for their universal

themes and cultural significance:

The Legend of the White Buffalo Calf Woman

Central to Lakota spirituality, this story recounts how a sacred woman brought the people the sacred pipe, introducing rituals and teachings that underpin their religious practices. It symbolizes peace, prosperity, and the covenant between humans and the divine.

The Story of the Corn Mother

Among various tribes such as the Hopi and Iroquois, the Corn Mother myth explains the origin of maize and emphasizes the importance of agriculture, fertility, and sustenance. It reflects the deep relationship between people and their environment.

Coyote the Trickster

Coyote appears in numerous American Indian stories as a clever yet flawed figure who embodies both wisdom and folly. These tales often serve as cautionary narratives, illustrating the consequences of greed, selfishness, or arrogance.

These stories continue to influence Native art, ceremonies, and education, reinforcing cultural identity and resilience.

The Role of Storytelling in Contemporary Native Communities

In present-day Native American societies, storytelling remains a vibrant practice with multifaceted roles:

- **Educational Function:** Stories teach language, history, ethics, and survival skills to younger members.
- **Cultural Revitalization:** Reviving endangered languages and traditions through storytelling promotes cultural pride and continuity.
- **Healing and Social Cohesion:** Storytelling serves therapeutic roles, helping communities address trauma and strengthen bonds.
- **Political Advocacy:** Narratives highlight indigenous rights, sovereignty, and environmental concerns, raising awareness among wider audiences.

Organizations and tribal councils increasingly support storytelling initiatives, including festivals, workshops, and digital archives, ensuring that American Indian stories remain accessible and relevant.

Challenges and Opportunities in Preserving Indigenous Narratives

Despite progress, preserving American Indian stories faces ongoing obstacles:

- **Language Loss:** Many stories are in indigenous languages at risk of extinction, complicating transmission.
- **Commercial Exploitation:** Misappropriation of Native stories by non-indigenous entities can distort meanings and disrespect cultural protocols.
- **Generational Gaps:** Urbanization and modern lifestyles sometimes reduce opportunities for traditional storytelling.

Conversely, technology offers new tools for documentation and dissemination, such as podcasts, video recordings, and interactive apps. Collaborative projects involving elders and youth foster intergenerational learning, securing the future of these rich narratives.

American Indian stories thus continue to be vibrant expressions of indigenous life and thought, bridging past and present while inviting broader society to engage respectfully with Native heritage. As these stories evolve, they remain indispensable to understanding the diverse and enduring cultures of Native America.

American Indian Stories

american indian stories: American Indian Stories, Legends, and Other Writings Zitkala-Sa, 2003-02-25 A thought-provoking collection of searing prose from a Dakota Sioux woman that covers race, identity, assimilation, and perceptions of Native American culture Zitkala-Sa (also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) wrestled with the conflicting influences of American Indian and white culture throughout her life. Raised on a Sioux reservation, she was educated at boarding schools that enforced assimilation and was witness to major events in white-Indian relations in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Tapping her troubled personal history, Zitkala-Sa created stories that illuminate the tragedy and complexity of the American Indian experience. In evocative prose laced with political savvy, she forces new thinking about the perceptions, assumptions, and customs of both Sioux and white cultures and raises issues of assimilation, identity, and race relations that remain compelling today.

american indian stories: **American Indian Stories** Zitkala-Sa, 1921

american indian stories: American Indian Stories Zitkala-Sa, 2017-12-03 Reproduction of the original.

american indian stories: **American Indian Stories** Zitkala-Sa, 2013-05-23 A wigwam of weather-stained canvas stood at the base of some irregularly ascending hills. A footpath wound its way gently down the sloping land till it reached the broad river bottom; creeping through the long swamp grasses that bent over it on either side, it came out on the edge of the Missouri. Here, morning, noon, and evening, my mother came to draw water from the muddy stream for our household use. Always, when my mother started for the river, I stopped my play to run along with her. She was only of medium height. Often she was sad and silent, at which times her full arched lips were compressed into hard and bitter lines, and shadows fell under her black eyes. Then I clung to her hand and begged to know what made the tears fall. Hush; my little daughter must never talk about my tears; and smiling through them, she patted my head and said, Now let me see how fast you can run today. Whereupon I tore away at my highest possible speed, with my long black hair blowing in the breeze.

american indian stories: *American Indian Stories and Old Indian Legends* Zitkala-Sa, 2014-07-01 Two essential collections by a noted Sioux author: *American Indian Stories* assembles short stories as well as autobiographical and political essays, and *Old Indian Legends* features tales from the oral tradition.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories Zitkala-Sa, 2019-01-04 Lecturer; Author of Old Indian Legends, Americanize The First American, and other stories; Member of the Woman's National Foundation, League of American Pen-Women, and the Washington Salon There is no great; there is no small; in the mind that causeth all 1921.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories Zitkala-Sa, Susan Rose Dominguez, 2005 American Indian Stories (1921) is remarkable for being perhaps the first literary work by a Native American woman created without the mediation of a non-Native interpreter or collaborator. Zitkala-Sa vividly articulates her disillusionment with the harshness of American Indian boarding schools and the corruption of government institutions ostensibly established to help Native peoples. At the same time, Zitkala-Sa's collection of autobiographical essays and short stories charts the progression of the author's estrangement from her Dakota people that her colonial education inevitably fostered. Much more than an indictment against U.S. attempts at Native deculturation, American Indian stories portrays one Dakota woman's spirited and successful efforts to resist the restrictions she felt in both reservation life and Euroamerican assimilation--Back cover.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories Gertrude Bonnin, Zitkala-Sa, 2019-09-20 American Indian Stories, first published in 1921, is a collection of childhood stories, allegorical fiction, and an essay. One of the most famous Sioux writers and activists of the modern era, Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin) recalled legends and tales from oral tradition and used experiences from her life and community to educate others about the Yankton Sioux. Determined, controversial, and visionary, she creatively worked to bridge the gap between her own culture and mainstream American society and advocated for Native rights on a national level, writer and reformer who strove to expand opportunities for Native Americans and to safeguard their cultures.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories Sa-Zitkala, 2023-04 American Indian Stories by Zitkala-Sa is a collection of autobiographical essays and short stories that offer a powerful and insightful look into the experiences of Native Americans at the turn of the 20th century. The book is divided into two parts: the first part recounts Zitkala-Sa's own experiences growing up as a member of the Sioux tribe on a reservation in South Dakota, and her struggles to reconcile her traditional Native American upbringing with the demands of assimilation into white American culture. The second part of the book contains a series of short stories that explore the themes of cultural identity, loss of tradition, and the impact of colonialism on Native American communities. Through her writing, Zitkala-Sa highlights the ways in which Native Americans were forced to give up their cultural practices and beliefs in order to assimilate into white American society. Zitkala-Sa's writing is deeply personal and vivid, bringing to life the beauty and complexity of Native American culture, as well as the challenges and injustices faced by Native Americans in the face of colonization and assimilation.

american indian stories: Native American Storytelling Karl Kroeber, 2008-04-15 The myths and legends in this book have been selected both for their excellence as stories and because they illustrate the distinctive nature of Native American storytelling. A collection of Native American myths and legends. Selected for their excellence as stories, and because they illustrate the distinctive nature of Native American storytelling. Drawn from the oral traditions of all major areas of aboriginal North America. Reveals the highly practical functions of myths and legends in Native American societies. Illustrates American Indians' profound engagement with their natural environment. Edited by an outstanding interpreter of Native American oral stories.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories By Zitkala-Sa (Annotated Edition) Zitkala-Sa, 2021-03-11 merican Indian Stories is a collection of childhood stories, allegorical fictions and essays written by Sioux writer and activist Zitkala-Sa. First published in 1921, American Indian Stories details the hardships encountered by Zitkala-Sa and other Native Americans in the missionary and manual labour schoolsThe autobiographical details contrast her early life on the Yankton Indian Reservation and her time as a student at White's Manual Labour Institute and Earlham College. The collection includes legends and stories from Sioux oral tradition, along with an essay titled America's Indian Problem, which advocates rights for Native Americans and calls for a

greater understanding of Native American cultures. *American Indian Stories* offers a unique view into a society that is often overlooked though that society still persists to this day. The story begins with a description of the big path that leads from Zitkala-Sa's childhood wigwam to a river which, in turn, makes its way to The Edge of Missouri. Her mother would draw water from this river for household use. Zitkala-Sa would play at her mother's side, noting that she was often sad and silent. At the age of seven, Zitkala-Sa describes herself as 'wild' and 'as free as the wind that blew her hair'. Recounting a conversation with her mother on one of their return trips from the river, Zitkala-Sa told her that when she is older like her 17-year-old cousin Warca-Ziwin, she will come and get water for her. Zitkala-Sa's mother responded, If the paleface does not take away from us the river we drink.

american indian stories: *American Indian Stories* Zitkala-Sa, 2003-01-01 Zitkala-Sa (Gertrude Bonnin) recalls legends and tales from oral tradition and uses experiences from her life and community to educate others about the Yankton Sioux.

american indian stories: Old Indian Legends and American Indian Stories Zitkala-Sa Simmons, 2025-05-10 Old Indian Legends is a collection of 14 Sioux stories retold by Yankton Dakota writer Zitkala-Sa, published in 1901. The author's primary purpose was to preserve the traditional narratives of her people, particularly amidst concerns regarding the impact of assimilation on the tribe's youth. *American Indian Stories* comprises autobiographical essays and narratives that were first published in 1921. This book provides an insightful account of Zitkala-Sa's experiences as a Dakota Sioux woman, emphasizing the cultural challenges faced by Indigenous peoples in America. Through detailed storytelling, she explores her childhood, education, and the complexities of maintaining Native traditions alongside Western influences.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories and Old Indian Legends (Royal Collector's Edition) (Case Laminate Hardcover with Jacket) Zitkala-Sa, 2021-01-17 *American Indian Stories* details the hardships encountered by the Yankton Dakota writer Zitkala-Sa in missionary schools. Old Indian Legends is a collection of 14 Sioux stories that she learned as child and had gathered from various tribes.

american indian stories: Moccasin Thunder Lori Marie Carlson, 2005-10-04 The ten stories that make up this collection are raw, original, and fresh. Although they are all about American Indians, they are as different from one another as they are from anything you've read before. A supermarket checkout line, a rowboat on a freezing lake at dawn, a drunken dance in the gym, an ice hockey game on public-access TV. These are some of the backgrounds against which ten outstanding authors have created their memorable characters. Their work -- both poignant and funny, sarcastic and serious -- reminds us that the American Indian story is far from over -- it's being written every day.

american indian stories: Coyote Not-so-clever , 1999 A retelling of four traditional North American Indian folktales about a coyote who thinks he's smart and clever, but always manages to get himself into trouble. Suggested level: primary.

american indian stories: *American Indian Stories* Zitkala-Sa Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, 2018-08-13 *American Indian stories: Large print* by Zitkala-Sa (Red Bird; also Gertrude Simmons Bonnin) A unique combination of autobiography and fiction which represents an attempt to merge cultural critique with aesthetic form, especially surrounding such fundamental matters as religion. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an

enriching experience.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories Zitkala-Sa, 2022-08-30 LARGE PRINT EDITION. American Indian Stories (1921) is a collection of stories and essays from Yankton Dakota writer Zitkála-Sá. Published while Zitkála-Sá was at the height of her career as an artist and activist, American Indian Stories collects the author's personal experiences, the legends and stories passed down through Sioux oral tradition, and her own reflections on the mistreatment of American Indians nationwide. In My Mother, Zitkála-Sá remembers the walk she would take with her mother to the river, where they would gather water to use in their wigwam. This simple chore becomes a cherished tradition between the two, allowing Zitkála-Sá's mother to educate her on the circumstances that led their people to the reservation, depriving them of land and life itself. The Legends traces Zitkála-Sá's childhood experience of learning from the oral tradition passed down from the Dakota elders. In The Coffee Making, she remembers the first time she made coffee. While her mother has gone out for the day, an elder pays a visit to their wigwam. Remembering that her mother usually makes coffee for visitors, Zitkála-Sá attempts to play hostess to her visitor, who humors her and takes the time to share stories about his life and their people. American Indian Stories is a charming and politically conscious collection of stories from one of the leading American Indian writers of her generation, a committed activist and true voice for change who saw through her own eyes the lives and experiences of countless others. With a beautifully designed cover and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of Zitkála-Sá's American Indian Stories is a classic of American Indian literature reimagined for modern readers.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories and Legends Catherine Chambers, 2013 Introduces readers to American Indian myths and legends.

american indian stories: American Indian Stories (Esprios Classics) Zitkala-Sa, 2020-11-12 Zitkála-Sá (1876-1938) (Red Bird), also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, her missionary-given and later married name, was a Yankton Dakota writer, editor, translator, musician, educator, and political activist. She wrote several works chronicling her struggles with cultural identity and the pull between the majority culture she was educated within and her Dakota culture into which she was born and raised. Her later books were among the first works to bring traditional Native American stories to a widespread white English-speaking readership, and she has been noted as one of the most influential Native American activists of the 20th century. She was co-founder of the National Council of American Indians in 1926, which was established to lobby for Native people's right to United States citizenship and other civil rights they had long been denied.

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