

Hear Me Say My Name

GRADES 5–12

NATIONAL
MUSEUM
OF THE
AMERICAN
INDIAN

"I am not your mascot, and I don't live in a Tipi. See me for who I am, hear me say my name." How do American Indian stereotypes, prejudice, and identity shape the discussion of what it means to be a young person in our country today? This original multimedia play, created in collaboration with Smithsonian Associates' Discovery Theater, tackles America's assumptions about American Indians and starts a conversation with audiences reclaiming rich history, challenges, hopes, and dreams.

Americans Exhibition

Americans highlights the ways in which American Indians have been part of the nation's identity since before the country began. It surrounds visitors with images, delves into the three stories, and invites them to begin a conversation about why this phenomenon exists.

Pervasive, powerful, at times demeaning, the images, names, and stories reveal the deep connection between Americans and American Indians.

After the performance, we encourage students and teachers to explore the Americans exhibition located on Level 3. Use this [Dialogue Toolkit for Educators](#) to facilitate critical thinking and discussion with students in the gallery.

Online Resources

Americans Exhibition Website

+ <https://americanindian.si.edu/americans/>

The Invention of Thanksgiving Video

+ <https://americanindian.si.edu/americans/#stories/the-invention-of-thanksgiving>

Essential Understanding: Individual Development and Identity

+ <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/understandings.cshtml#eublock4>

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Image credit: Smithsonian Associates Staff

Greetings from Cherokee, Iowa, postcard, ca. 1949. The Newberry Library, Chicago IL

