**Native Americans**

**In Brazil, several Indians who had been refused an audience with then-President Eenesto Geisel because they were not wearing ties told the press they would “insist that any government official visiting an Indian village must wear a feathered headdress and body paint.” *(Reuters)***

Native American people used to use buffalo tails as fly swatters. *Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

**When asked by an anthropologist what the Indians called America before the white man came, an Indian said simply, "Ours." *(Vine Deloria, Jr., in Custer Died for Your Sins)***

**A record high of at least 170 Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian candidates appeared on ballots on Election Day. There are currently 347 Native elected officials in the U.S. That number would need to reach 17,000 to achieve representational parity for Native Americans, who make up 3 percent of the U.S. population. *(NPR.org, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 15, 2024)***

**When the homesteaders were settling the American West, Native Americans would charge them tolls to cross rivers and travel on roads*. (Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 202)***

On September 21, 1904, Chief Joseph, leader of the Nez Perce people, died at the Colville reservation in northern Washington state. He represented his tribe in their struggle with the U. S. to avoid losing their ancestral lands, but the tribe was eventually forced onto a reservation. *(The Daily Chronicle)*

**There were huge Indian tribes – the Mandans, Arikaras, Hidatsas – that settled and farmed the Plains. But they clustered in great, stable settlements so that the pox brought in by the colonials mostly wiped them out. That’s what let the poor little wandering tribes of Sioux take over. *(L. M. Boyd)***

The Native Indians were "animists" who believed that every animal, plant, and object contained a spirit to be propitiated or feared. Some of these -- including the sun, the buffalo, the peyote plant, the eagle and the rattlesnake -- were more powerful or more frequently helpful than others, but there was nothing mightier than the "Great Spirit," which was frequently represented. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 173)*

Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire was founded by Eleazar Wheelock in 1769 primarily to educate Native American people. The college's charter issued by King George III describes its mission as "the education and instruction of "Youth of the Indian Tribes in this Land ... and also of English Youth and any others." *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

Chewing gum and popcorn were both developed by Native Americans. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 173)*

When Omaha Indians divorced, the woman got the property and kids. *Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

A general belief is that all American Indians lived in tipis but this isn't true. In reality, only the Plains Indians lived in them. The Hope Indians lived in mud huts and the Anasazi Indians lived in cliff houses to prevent attacks from enemies. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 173)*

**The Indian goes solitary into the forest, on rare and stated occasions, to gain a certain sense of his own superior strength and poise. Then he comes back to familiar scenes and regular activities, and runs, and leaps, and rides, and sings, and plants, and harvests, and tells the stories that inspire his race, and ministers to those in need in the spirit of love. (Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters, p. 56)**

Many Indians, even though born in the United States, were not considered citizens until an act of Congress granting them citizenship was passed in 1924. Before this law was passed, those who had been granted citizenship by specific treaties were considered members of “domestic independent nations.” *(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 27)*

Illegal aliens have always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Indian. *(Robert Orben, humorist)*

**The land is our mother, the rivers our blood. Take our land away and we die. *(Mary Brave Bird, Lakota writer and activist)***

On September 16, 1893, the largest land run in history began with a gunshot as 100,000 people poured into Oklahoma to claim land that once belonged to Native Americans. *(The Daily Chronicles)*

There were about 50 million Indians living in the Western Hemisphere in 1492.***(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 30)***

Native Americans (American Indians) make up less than 1% of the total U.S. population, but they represent half the languages and cultures in the nation.

*(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 173)*

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The only never-conquered American Indians were the Seminoles. Were you aware, even, that they declared war against the Axis nations during World War II. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**American Indians never fried food. *(L. M. Boyd)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**The Washington Redskins are by no means the only team with a Native American nickname. In a database of 42,624 high school, college, and pro teams, 2,129 have Native American names, including “Savages,” “Squaws,” and 75 teams called “Redskins.” *(FiveThirtyEight.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 19, 2014)***

**The Native American night sky: “Greek constellations aren’t the only stories scattered among the stars,” said Stephanie Vermillion in Outside. For more than 10,000 years Native Americans have looked to the night sky “for everything from weather prediction to navigation.” Where you might see the Greek hunter Orion, “the Ojibwe of North America’s Great Lakes region see the Wintermaker, a figure that signals that cold weather is on the horizon.” Today, rangers at several national parks are integrating indigenous astronomy into stargazing tours. They’re inspired by the work of Lakota astrophysicist Annette Lee, whose Native Skywatchers movement gathers and shares indigenous star stories. At Colorado’s Mesa Verde National Park, a recent Dark Sky certification has set the stage for indigenous-led astro-tourism. “If you look up, you have this whole immense universe,” says park ranger and Laguna Pueblo member TJ Atsye. “The sky is alive, and the cosmos are another aspect of the park. They hold meaning for contemporary indigenous people just like they did for our ancestors.” *(The Week magazine, August 13, 2021)***

**Another little-known fact about Native Americans is that some were utter pacifists. Wouldn't fight when their villages were raided. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**More than half of the Mayflower’s passengers died the first harsh winter of 1620-21. The fragile colony survived only with the assistance of Native Americans. To commemorate, not celebrate, their survival, Pilgrims joined Native Americans in a grand meal during the autumn of 1621. *(Michael Carrafiello, scholar of English and American history, in The North Platte Telegraph)***

Pocahontas (circa 1595 - 1617) was only 10 or 11 years old when she saved the settler John Smith from execution. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

On February 27, 1973, the American Indian Movement occupied the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, to protest conditions on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The siege ended with negotiations after 71 days. *(The Daily Chronicle)*

Today is, November 15, Rock Your Mocs Day. Situated in the middle of Native American Heritage Month, this is a day for indigenous peoples to wear their traditional moccasins in a show of pride. Pictures of moccasins are also shared on social media*. (The Daily Chronicle)*

Stink bugs! The Delawares used skunk oil to treat colds. *Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

The state name "Iowa" comes from the Sioux word meaning both "one who puts to sleep" and "beautiful land." "North Dakota" comes from the Sioux word for "friend." *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

A Native American group is suing the state of Colorado to reverse a recent ban on Native American-themed high school mascots. The Native American Guardian’s Association contends that a state ban on schools using team names such as “Warriors” or “Indians” makes it harder for Native Americans to “reclaim names and images that were once directed at them as insults” and make them “badges of pride.” *(The Week magazine, November 19, 2021)*

**The tomahawk was the war axe of various North American Indians. The word comes from some form or other of Algonquin “otomahuk,” meaning “to chop down.” When warring tribes tired of hostilities, they would, with great ceremony, bury the war axes. Thus, “to bury the hatchet.” Of course when they got bored with peace, as they always did, they would, with equal ceremony, dig up the hatchet and go at it again, hammer and tongs. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 257)***

Knock on wood ... The tallest totem pole was 180 feet, 3 inches (54m) tall, and was made in 1994 in British Columbia. *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 187)*

Before the election of Barack Obama, Herbert Hoover’s vice president, Charles Curtis, who was American Indian, had the distinction of being the minority achieving the highest rank in American government. **(Don Voorhees, in The Essential Book of Useless Information, p. 74)**

It's common knowledge that many words in the American language are derived from other languages. The Native Americans gave us words such as "squash," "raccoon," and bayou." Suffering succotash -- and that one as well!

*(Charlotte Lowe, in Fact-O-Pedia, p. 173)*

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***