

PATHFINDER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

In this pathfinder, or “guide” you will find tips to help you search for information on your assigned tribe. Not every tribe will have the same type or amount of information, but every attempt was made to provide its location or map, and something about its history or culture.

To begin your project, please read the tips on how to search for books or websites. These tips are handy no matter what information you are trying to find. After the tips, you will see Some Suggested Books owned by the Shelton Library System, and Some Suggested Websites and Databases which you can use. As always, please see anyone on staff if you have a question or need more help.

Search Tips for Books

- Try looking for books with the call number “970.004” in the children, teen, or adult collections for books on the history, culture and background of the tribe.
- If you are using our library catalog, try a keyword search using the name of the tribe you are assigned followed by “Indians juvenile literature”. When a list of titles appears, double click on the title of a book that looks like something you might be able to use. Make sure the book is “checked in” before you try to look for it.
- If no results turn up or you want to look for additional information, try a subject search using “Indians of North America--juvenile literature” as your terms. When a list of titles appears, double click on the title of a book that looks like something you might be able to use. Make sure the book is “checked in” before you try to look for it.
- When you choose a title, there will probably be a list of subjects under the title information or in a side menu to the left. If you click on any that look like a good match, you will be linked to titles throughout the state that we can try to get for you. Look for the red check mark for books we own at our libraries.

Search Tips for Websites and Databases

- Of course you want to make sure that the information you get on the Web is accurate. Unfortunately, many sites give you details that may be wrong or incomplete. So it is important to look for your facts on trustworthy websites. (Websites that have “.org”, “.gov”, and “.edu” are good choices).
- This pathfinder will only guide you to reputable websites, so the information is reliable.
- You can try using the same keywords and subject terms that you used for finding books when you are searching within a website or database.

- Check with your teacher to find out how you should include websites in your bibliography. You will at least need the entire URL.

Some Suggested Books

- *Encyclopedia of North American Indians*. (1997) 11 volumes. (**PLUMB** Juvenile Reference Collection – REF J970.004 ENC, **HUNTINGTON** Juvenile Reference Collection – Yj970.004 ENC).
- Sepehri, S. (2009). *Rourke's Native American history and culture encyclopedia*. 10 volumes. (**HUNTINGTON** Juvenile Reference Collection – j970.004 ROU).
- Waldman, C. (1985). *Atlas of the North American Indian*. (**PLUMB** Juvenile Reference Collection – REF j970 WAL, **HUNTINGTON** Juvenile Reference Collection REF – j970.0049 WAL).
- Whipple, C. (1972). *The Indian in Connecticut*. (**PLUMB** Connecticut Room – 970.446 W CT COLL).

Some Suggested Websites and Databases

- Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/native-americans/search-terms.html>
This site will help you find what you are looking for within the Library of Congress website – it's a list of search terms! Use these to help find additional sites to visit.
- Library of Congress
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/native-americans/students.html>
This site will link you to great information from the Library of Congress for maps, pictures, timelines, games, and more. Some sites will need more work than others to navigate, but we're here to help you.
- Mintz, S. (2007). *Native American Voices*. *Digital History*.
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/native_voices/native_voices.cfm
You can find historical descriptions of areas where some tribes were found, including pre-historic information on this site. Click on the very first link for "Part I" and scroll down to the section on "Origins".
- Native Tech <http://www.nativetech.org/>
This site concentrates on the history and culture of Eastern Woodland tribes. Craft instructions are often available.
- Shelton Library System homepage <http://www.sheltonlibrarysystem.org>
From our library homepage, click on "Research and Learn", next click on "Databases" and then the link to "iconn". (If you are home, you will need your

library card number.) You can then search for full text magazine or journal articles by using your keyword or subject search terms. Again, once you get a list, you can click on the title and read the full article. Or once you get to "iconn" you can choose the side link for "Online Magazines" and search for a journal called *Whispering Winds*. This is a magazine devoted to the traditions and crafts, culture, powwows and history of the American Indian.