

Traditional Native American Culture



Unlimited Learning, Inc.
Created by Leecy Wise
640 East Second Street
PO Box 1273
Cortez CO 81321
970-565-1602



oerinadulsted@gmail.com



Slower ->



Traditional Native Americans

In this unit, the name Traditional Native Americans means people from different tribes in the United States. They live with other tribal members. They follow traditional ways. That means that they have ceremonies. They have a strong oral tradition. They tell old stories to their children. They keep a lot of their old way of life.



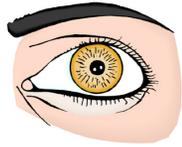
Many Native Americans no longer keep the old way of life. They may not keep their traditions. However, they may still keep some of their cultural ways.

If you are Native American, you will be able to see if you come from a traditional culture or not. It does not matter what culture you come from. It does matter that you know yourself. That is why this unit is important.

In this unit, when you see the initials TNA, that means Traditional Native American. TNAs means Traditional Native Americans.



TNAs Like to See the Whole Picture

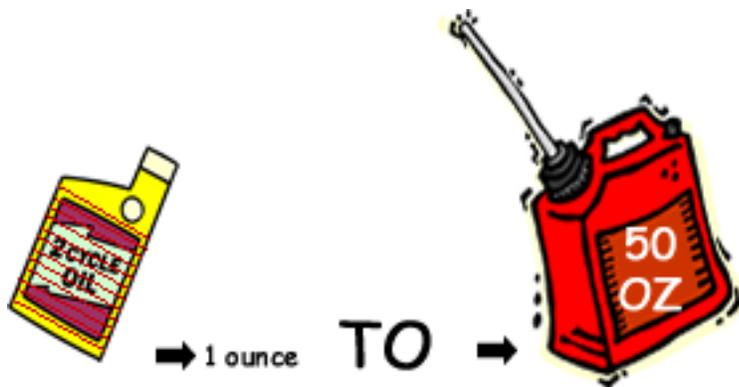


TNAs see ideas. They create an image of what the idea looks like. They are visual. They see an image. They like to see the whole picture. Then the pieces make sense.

If you are like a TNA, you want to see what things look like when you learn about them.

For example, people in our dominant culture use things like fractions and ratios at work and other places. Fractions and ratios show parts of a whole.

For example, if you have a boat, you might need to mix one part of oil to fifty parts of gas. The manual for the motor can express those instructions in different ways.



1:50 or 1 to 50 expresses a ratio of oil to gas.
1/50 expresses the same amounts as a fraction.

If you work in a pizza restaurant, you need to cut pieces into equal parts. Each part is a fraction of the whole pizza. If you like pizza, you can learn fractions!

How many original slices were cut in the pizza below?



If you said 8, you are right! That is the total number of all of the parts: 8! If you are writing a fraction, that would be the bottom part of the fraction.

$$\frac{\quad}{8} = 8 \text{ total pieces}$$



Someone is taking a piece, as you can see. That is one piece out of eight. Someone is taking one out of eight pieces! We write that number one (1) at the top of the fraction line.

$$\frac{1}{8} = 1 \text{ out of } 8 \text{ pieces, or one eighth.}$$

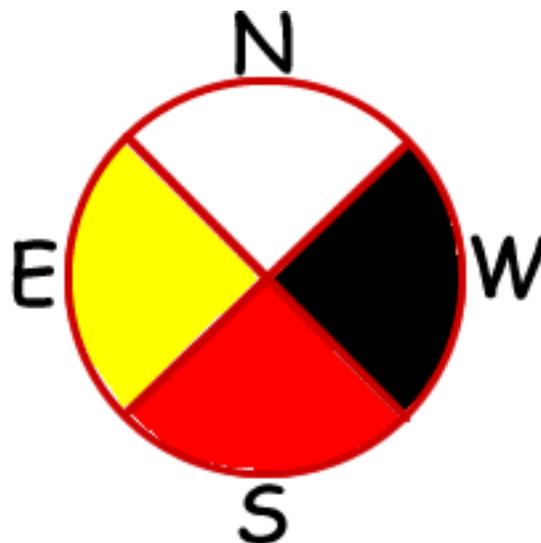


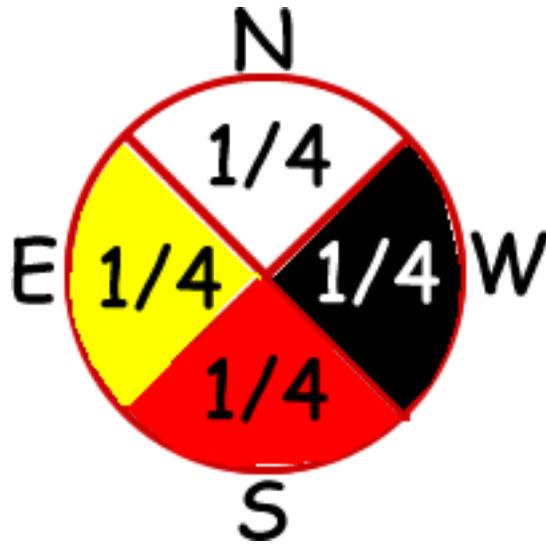
Someone is taking another piece. The total number of original pieces is the same. The bottom number stays the same. There were eight total pieces.

The top number now changes. Two pieces are being taken out of the eight. The top number changes to two.

$$\frac{2}{8} = 2 \text{ out of } 8 \text{ pieces, or two eighths.}$$

Think of a medicine wheel. It has four directions. The circle is divided into four spaces. The space between each direction inside the wheel is one out of four, or one fourth ($1/4$).

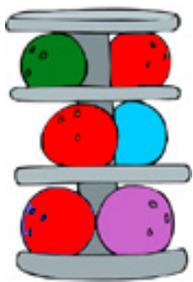




Did you like learning fractions using a circle with spaces inside? Were you able to see the picture? That is how most Native Americans learn. They are visual, and they like to see the whole picture.

Look at the pictures below. Write a fraction showing how many parts are in **red**.

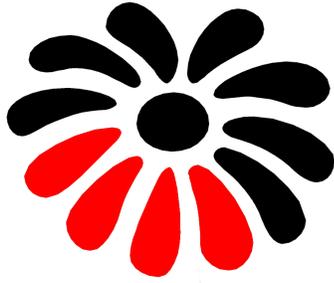
Example: Bowling balls



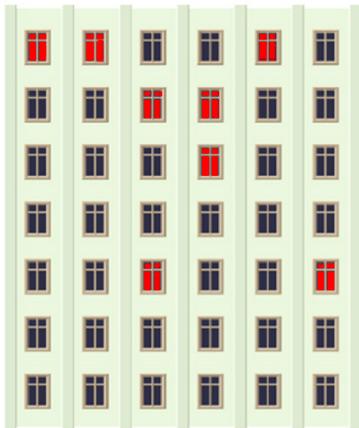
three out of six = $\frac{3}{6}$ are red

[NO AUDIO]

1. Petals in a flower



2. Windows in a building



3. Cars in the race



[CLICK HERE TO OPEN THE ANSWER SHEET.](#)



Are you a visual learner? Do you like to see the whole picture before you learn something? That is very good. Remember how you learn. Then learn how to learn in different ways. Ask someone to give you the picture in words. Then write the fraction.

Following are some examples:



I bought six cupcakes. Two of them were chocolate. How would you write the fraction to show how many cupcakes were chocolate?



A recipe calls for $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cup of sugar for every 3 cups of flour. If I use 6 cups of flower, how much sugar will I need?



My car gets 26 miles per gallon (26:1) If I have 2 gallons of gas, how far can I get?

Now it's your turn. Write a few fraction and ratio word problems for your friend. Exchange problems as you solve them. That way, you will know how to learn with words and with pictures!



TNAs Like “Wait” Time



People in our dominant culture like quick results and responses. TNAs like wait time. That means that they like time before answering a question. Silence is OK.

When you take time to think about something, that is called reflection. Reflection is a time of silence when you consider something.

TNAs like to reflect before they answer or decide on something. That makes it difficult for many to compete in classrooms or in staff meetings at work. People want answers fast in the dominant culture.

If others are uncomfortable being silent, simply say, “Please give me a minute. I need some time to consider.”



It is important that you let people know in words what you are thinking. That way, you won't feel the pressure so much. You will teach them to respect your way, too!

TNAs Like to Observe



Children on Reservations learn through observation. There is a quiet way. Their minds are active, but their actions are passive. They watch and watch. Then they try.

In our dominant culture, people want you to do things before you are sure. It is called the “trial and failure” process. It doesn't matter if you do something wrong as long as you try.

If you need more time to observe before you try something, just say, “I need more time before I try. Please let me observe you some more.”

TNAs Speak Softly and Look Down

People in our dominant culture often speak loudly. In school, you will often hear teachers talk from far away.

People in our dominant culture also respect you if you look them in the eye.



TNAs usually don't look people in the eye, especially if they are in authority. They also like to speak softly.

If you speak low and keep your eyes down, some people will get impatient. It is a good idea to practice speaking up and looking people in the eye in our dominant culture. That way, when you are at work or in school, you will not feel out of place.

If you are going for a job interview, practice with someone else. Look the person in the eye. Talk about yourself. Tell others what you do well. It is not disrespectful. It is expected!

You are not giving up your way for someone else's way. You are just learning a new way of doing things. It is good to know how to do things in many ways. Then you have a choice!

Following, is a table with two columns. One column has some comments about things in the Native American Way. Each row talks about something. The other column is for things about the US Dominant Culture Way. It is blank. You will fill each row with your comments about the same topic. Write, comments in the white column. What have you learned about the public dominant culture in the United States? What have you learned about the TNA culture?

(No audio)

Native American Way	US Dominant Culture Way
Time is eternal. It is not divided into present, past, and future. Being on time and meeting deadlines is good sometimes, but not always.	
A person's family includes many friends and relatives. Family is more important than a job or an appointment.	
Words are only important sometimes. People can tell a lot by how you act. Body language and expressions are important. It is not necessary to explain everything.	
People should be quiet unless they know what they are saying. Being quiet is OK. It is important to observe before talking or trying things.	
All things are connected. Together, they create a whole picture. People are part of the whole picture, just like things in nature. We are all connected.	
People belong in a community. Their community is important. Don't stand out. Don't try to be better than someone else. Work together to do things.	