

Printable Teaching Guide

A Day in the Life – Young Native Americans Long Ago

Objectives

Students will:

- Learn about a young Native American's life.
- Discuss how the lives of Native American children were different from and similar to the lives of children today.
- Complete three online activities, including: weaving a virtual wampum belt, coloring a virtual wigwam, and making a virtual paper doll.

Brief Description of Internet Site

The *MrDonn.org* website offers online lessons, activities, and general information about U.S. history.

Build Background

- Explain to students that Native American children helped their parents from an early age. Ask: *How did Native American children help their parents?* (Boys learned to hunt and fish with their fathers and elder brothers. They also helped their father make wigwams. Girls learned to plant crops, weave baskets and cook with their mothers. They also helped make clothing.)
- Tell students that just like children today, Native American children played games and looked after their younger brothers and sisters. Ask: *What did Native American children do for fun?* (Dolls and animal figures were common toys for Native American children. Toys were made with raw materials such as bone, ivory, wood, and cornhusks. Music was also an important source of entertainment.)
- Ask: *How were the lives of Native American children different from and similar to the lives of children today?* (Answers will vary. Possible answers: Similarity: They had toys and lived in communities. Difference: They were trained to take on adult responsibilities.)

Teach

What to do:

- Connect to: <http://members.aol.com/MrDonnHistory/American.html>
- Click on Native Americans and select Online Fun.
- Select Weave a Virtual Wampum Belt and follow the online instructions. Ask: *How did Native Americans use wampum belts?* (Strings of wampum were used to sanction council proceedings, to vouch for the integrity of a speaker, to give responsibility to an office, to solemnize a treaty or to assuage sorrow.)
- Select Virtual Coloring Book – Wigwam and follow the online instructions. Ask: *How were wigwams built?* (Wigwams were built over shallow pits. Earth was then piled up around the bottom of the construction to keep out the wind. The coverings, which were usually animal skins, woven mats, or elm or birch bark, could be taken down and reused. Wigwams could be shaped like cones or rectangles.)
- Select Virtual Paper Dolls and follow the online instructions. Ask: *How are the clothes Native Americans wore different from the clothes worn today?* (Answers will vary.)

Close

- Have students discuss what they learned about a young Native American's life.
- Have students illustrate a comic strip in which they imagine a day in the life of a young Native American.