

FRY BREAD

Written by Kevin Noble Maillard and
Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

Reading and Activity Guide



BEFORE READING

- + This story begins with children making food with an older woman who has something to teach them. Is there someone in your life that you like to make food with? What do you talk about when you make food? What have they taught you?
- + Ask children to share what they know about Native Americans.
- + Explain to children that before the Pilgrims and settlers arrived, this land was already populated from coast to coast. Like not all Americans are the same (Texans vs. New Yorkers vs. Minnesotans, etc.), Native American tribes varied greatly. Each had their own language, customs, and ways of living, usually shaped by the region they lived in. What a fun - and important - topic to explore!

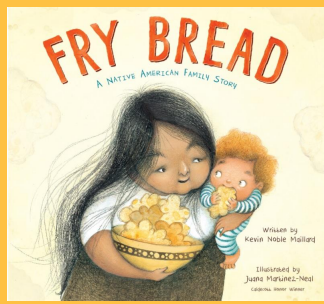
DURING READING

- + Explain that throughout America's history, Native tribes had to move to make space for the settlers. Sometimes this happened fairly and legally...but often it did not. At times, the government forced the Native Americans to leave, and walk to their new home ([Trail of Tears](#)). Imagine being asked to walk from your current home to a brand new land, where you are unfamiliar with the natural resources and weather. Where do you get food? How do you get clothing?
- + **Adults:** This article from Central Michigan University may be helpful: [A Brief History of Land Transfers Between American Indians and the United States Government](#).

AFTER READING

- + Ask children what their favorite part of the book was. Could they imagine the sounds or smells? Flip back through the video. See if children have any questions about the story. You may want to write them down on poster paper, etc.
- + [Click here](#) to view the detailed Author's Notes. [Click here](#) for a printable fry bread recipe.
- + Display and discuss [this map](#) to show where original tribes lived.
- + **Why are they called "Indians"?** "The word Indian came to be used because Christopher Columbus repeatedly expressed the mistaken belief that he had reached the shores of South Asia. Convinced he was correct, Columbus fostered the use of the term Indios (originally, "person from the Indus valley") to refer to the peoples of the so-called New World." From [Britannica Encyclopedia](#).
- + Remember that Native peoples still live in the United States. What is life like for them today? Do some research to find out if there are Native reservations or populations in your local area. Maybe they have a museum, visitor's center, or ways to volunteer and help.
- + You may want to display some images of [Native American artifacts](#) - this can lead to so many great questions! Enjoy!





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SPRINGBOARD ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Background Info for Adults - Adults, you may want to read this article from Central Michigan University: [A Brief History of Land Transfers Between American Indians and the United States Government](#). Many [historical societies](#) offer information about Native history as well - look into your local historical society for more relevant information.

Activity #2: The Wampanoag Way - When you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, spend some time learning about the Wampanoag - the tribe that saved the Pilgrims and helped them survive their first year here - if you don't already.

[This video](#) is short (7:30) and shares life through the eyes of two modern Wampanoag children. [This video](#) is longer (17:24) but offers much more detailed information. You may want to pick and choose portions to show, or spread it out over a few days. They might inspire new activities to add to your Thanksgiving celebrations! [This article](#) shares how Wampanoag and Pilgrim children played and learned, and lends itself well to many compare and contrast activities.

Activity #3: - Keep Learning! - Learning about Native American tribes and their ways of life is something that can be woven into many lessons/units or free time/enrichment activities. Beyond checking out books at the library, MANY museums offer FREE lessons and resources, including TONS of hands-on activities for all ages. It may be more meaningful to learn about a tribe that used to live in your area. Some Native tribes have their own websites with lessons and activities.

- [Search Pre-K - Grade 12 Lessons/Resources](#) from the Smithsonian National Museum of the Native American. (Search by grade level.)
- [K-12 Lessons, resources, and activities from the Osage People](#) - Oklahoma and Kansas. *This is one of the tribes the Ingalls family interacts with in [Little House on the Prairie](#).*
- [This website](#) is not so "easy on the eyes", but has AMAZINGLY detailed FAQs for kids for over 50 tribes!! Within the FAQs, the author links to pictures and information about Native tribes, including games, hairstyles, clothing, etc.

