

Title: Gathering of Nations Pow Wow (Elementary Lesson Plan)

Overview and Purpose

The Gathering of Nations is a 3 day event, which starts with the Miss Indian World Talent Presentations starting Thursday evening. The Gathering of Nations Pow Wow is a Two Day and Night event held in Albuquerque, NM. Over 3,000 indigenous / Native American / Indian dancers and Singers representing more than 500 tribes from Canada and the United States come to Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA annually to participate socially and competitively at the Annual Gathering of Nations Pow Wow. The event also includes the Indian Traders Market, a shopping and exhibition experience of over 800 artists, crafts, and traders placing their wares on display and for sale, as well as Stage 49, a music performance series of the best in Native American music of all genres.

PowWows.com and the Gathering of Nations Committee will broadcast the Pow Wow LIVE!

This lesson plan and activities is designed to foster understanding of Native American culture/traditions in support of those attending the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow as well as those viewing the live webcast in the classroom through activities before, during, and after the event.

The lesson plan can also be modified for any Pow Wow. You can watch past Pow Wow streams on PowWows.com – <http://webcasts.powwows.com>

Find a Pow Wow near your school – www.powwows.com/calendar

Objectives

- Enduring Understanding
- Essential Questions
 - What is a powwow?
 - What are characteristics of a tribe?

Grade (s): K-5

Materials: Access to Powwows.com site; handouts (KWL chart, Who Are the Native Americans?, What are the Parts of a Pow Wow?, Gathering of Nations Webcast Guide), beads or construction paper circles

Lesson Plan

Activities Prior to the Gathering of Nations Webcast

Anticipatory Set: KWL chart

Complete a **KWL chart** as a class group to brainstorm what students already **Know** about Native American pow wows. Discuss as a whole class what students already know.

Show several pictures from the Gathering of Nations gallery of photos on the Powwows.com site (<http://photos.powwows.com>). Explain to students that they will be learning about the meaning of a pow wow as they study Native American culture and traditions in greater depth. They will begin their study by learning more about Native American populations in their area.

As a class, brainstorm what students Want to learn in the KWL chart.

Activity #1: Who are the Native Americans?

Students will research a tribe from his/her home state or province (or state/province of their choice if they have already had previous study on the local Native American populations in their school's curriculum).

Have students search for information on Native American tribes by state/population on the Powwows.com site (<http://www.powwows.com/native-american-tribal-directory/>). For younger grades, this can be done as a whole class or groups. Older students may complete this activity individually.

Complete the graphic organizer **"Who are the Native Americans?"** from your research.

Activity #2: What Are The Parts of a Pow Wow?

Show a variety of highlights videos of the Gathering of Nations in years past from the Powwows.com site (<http://tv.powwows.com/>).

Conduct a guided reading activity of *What is a Pow Wow?* on Powwows.com (<http://www.powwows.com/main/native-american-pow-wow/>). Complete the graphic organizer **"What Are Parts of a Pow Wow?"** Students should include drawings or examples as it relates to the Native American tribe they previously researched.

Discuss student responses to the graphic organizer. Pose the following discussion questions as a group or individually:

- How are pow wows similar to your personal experience of gatherings of family and friends?
- What is the meaning of the Grand Entry?
- Why is the U.S. Flag included as part of the Grand Entry?
- In what ways do participants celebrate Native American culture during the pow wow?

Activities During the Gathering of Nations Webcast

While students are watching the webcast, have them complete **the Gathering of Nations Webcast Guide** worksheet. Encourage students to look for both examples of the tribe and examples of the parts of a pow wow they had previously studied.

Assessment Activities After the Gathering of Nations Webcast

Activity #1: Poster Profile of a Tribe Member

Using the research and information they have gathered on the tribe they previously researched, have students draw a poster of an example male or female tribe member. They should make sure they provide as many details as they can from their research on the **Who Are the Native Americans?** graphic organizer.

Activity #2: Beaded Rosette Medallion Craft

Review the tutorial on how to create a beaded rosette medallion (<http://www.powwows.com/how-to-make-a-beaded-rosette-medallion-craft-tutorials/>). Students can use beads to create their own medallion design. If materials are limited (or if working with younger students), students can simply draw their medallion and color it in or create it using construction paper cutouts of small circles.

Activity #3: Completion of the KWL Chart

As a class, brainstorm what you've learned about Native American cultures and pow wows by finishing the KWL chart (L column).

Extension Activities

How to Say Hello: Guide students in learning how to say hello in various Native American languages using Powwows.com (<http://www.powwows.com/how-to-say-hello/>) Have students practice saying hello out loud to each other in specific languages.

Pow Wow Recipes: Fry Bread: As a class, make a batch of classic Native American fry bread for students to prepare in class and eat! <http://www.powwows.com/frybread-power-a-yummy-way-to-celebrate-native-heritage/>