



NORTH CAROLINA  
**AMERICAN INDIAN**  
HERITAGE COMMISSION

# 2024 American Indian Heritage Month Toolkit



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

# Table of Contents

## Land Acknowledgement

Our Department

What is American Indian Heritage Month?

What is the purpose of American Indian Heritage Month?

Who We Are

Pre-Contact Historical Timeline

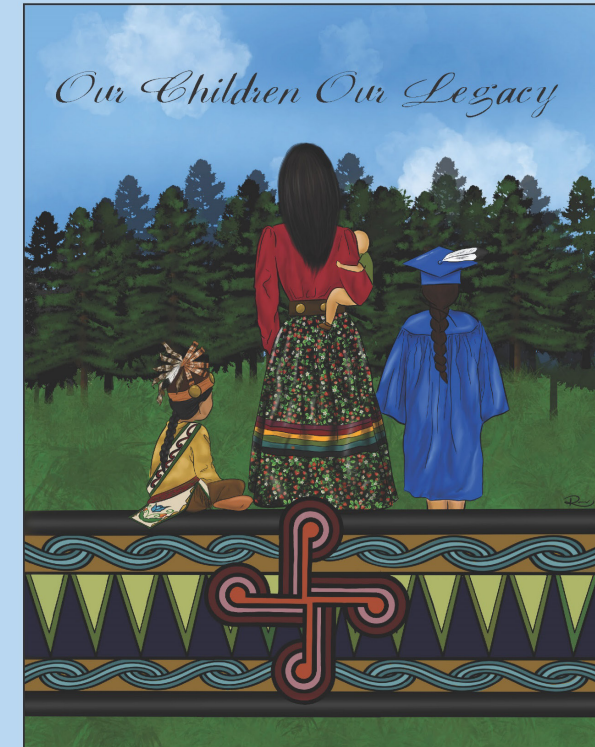
Contemporary Territories

NC Tribal Communities

NC Urban Indian Communities

## Heritage Month Resources

- Oral History Program
- Speakers Bureau
- Heritage Celebration
- Learning Materials & Lesson Plans
- Books
- Heritage Month Music Playlist
- Educational Resources
- Organizational Resources
- Departmental Resources
- State Historic Sites



Raven Dial-Stanley (Lumbee), Artist

**November 2024**

**North Carolina American Indian Heritage Month**

Co-Sponsored by: United Tribes of North Carolina and North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs  
North Carolina Tribes and Organizations:

Coharie Tribe, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi Tribe, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, Meherrin Indian Tribe, Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation, Sappony, Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, Cumberland County Association for Indian People

Guilford Native American Association, Metrolina Native American Association  
Triangle Native American Society, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Pembroke.

# Land Acknowledgement

The state of North Carolina is situated on the ancestral homelands of many American Indian tribes who have lived in this place, cared for these lands, and traveled throughout the region for thousands of years. Tribes spoke different variants of Algonquian, Iroquoian, and Siouan languages. We honor them as the first stewards of this place and acknowledge, with sorrow and remorse, the violent history of their dispossession and forced removal.

We respectfully acknowledge the **Coharie, Eastern Band of Cherokee, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, Meherrin, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi, Sappony, and Waccamaw Siouan** and honor the enduring presence, vibrance, and diversity of contemporary Indigenous communities.



# Our Department



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources manages over 100 locations across the state, including 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, five science museums, four aquariums, 35 state parks, four recreation areas, dozens of state trails and natural areas, the N.C. Zoo, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, the African American Heritage Commission, the American Indian Heritage Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of State Archaeology, the Highway Historical Markers program, the N.C. Land and Water Fund, and the Natural Heritage Program.



# What is American Indian Heritage Month?

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

[Learn More](#)





# What is the purpose of American Indian Heritage Month?

American Indian Heritage Month is celebrated annually to honor the rich cultural heritage, contributions, and achievements of American Indian people. During the month of November, many events take place, such as powwows, cultural exhibitions, storytelling, art displays, drum circles, and community gatherings.

Many schools, universities, and museums organize events to promote deeper understanding of American Indian culture and history. American Indian Heritage Month helps Natives and non-Natives alike understand, recognize, and respect the culture and traditions of America's first people.

North Carolina honors its American Indian citizens by issuing a proclamation from the Governor's Office and holding an annual American Indian Heritage Celebration at the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh.

# Who We Are



## History

The North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission was created by the 2021 State Budget Act under G.S. 143B-135.5.

## Mission

The North Carolina American Indian Heritage Commission advises and assists the Secretary of Natural and Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of American Indian history, arts, customs, and culture.

[AIHC.NC.GOV](https://aihc.nc.gov)

# Pre-Contact Historical Timeline

- Early Migration (40,000 – 15,000 BC):
  - ❖ People migrated to North America from Asia via the Bering Land Bridge between 40,000 and 15,000 BC.
- Paleo-Indian Period (10,000 – 8,000 BC):
  - ❖ Nomadic hunters focusing on large game animals.
- Archaic Period (8,000 – 1,000 BC):
  - ❖ Shift to smaller game hunting, fishing, and plant gathering due to changing climate.
- Woodland Period (1,000 BC – 1,550 AD):
  - ❖ Permanent settlements near waterways with mixed subsistence lifestyle.
- Mississippian Period (700 – 1,550 AD):
  - ❖ Large political units (chiefdoms) with stronger leadership.



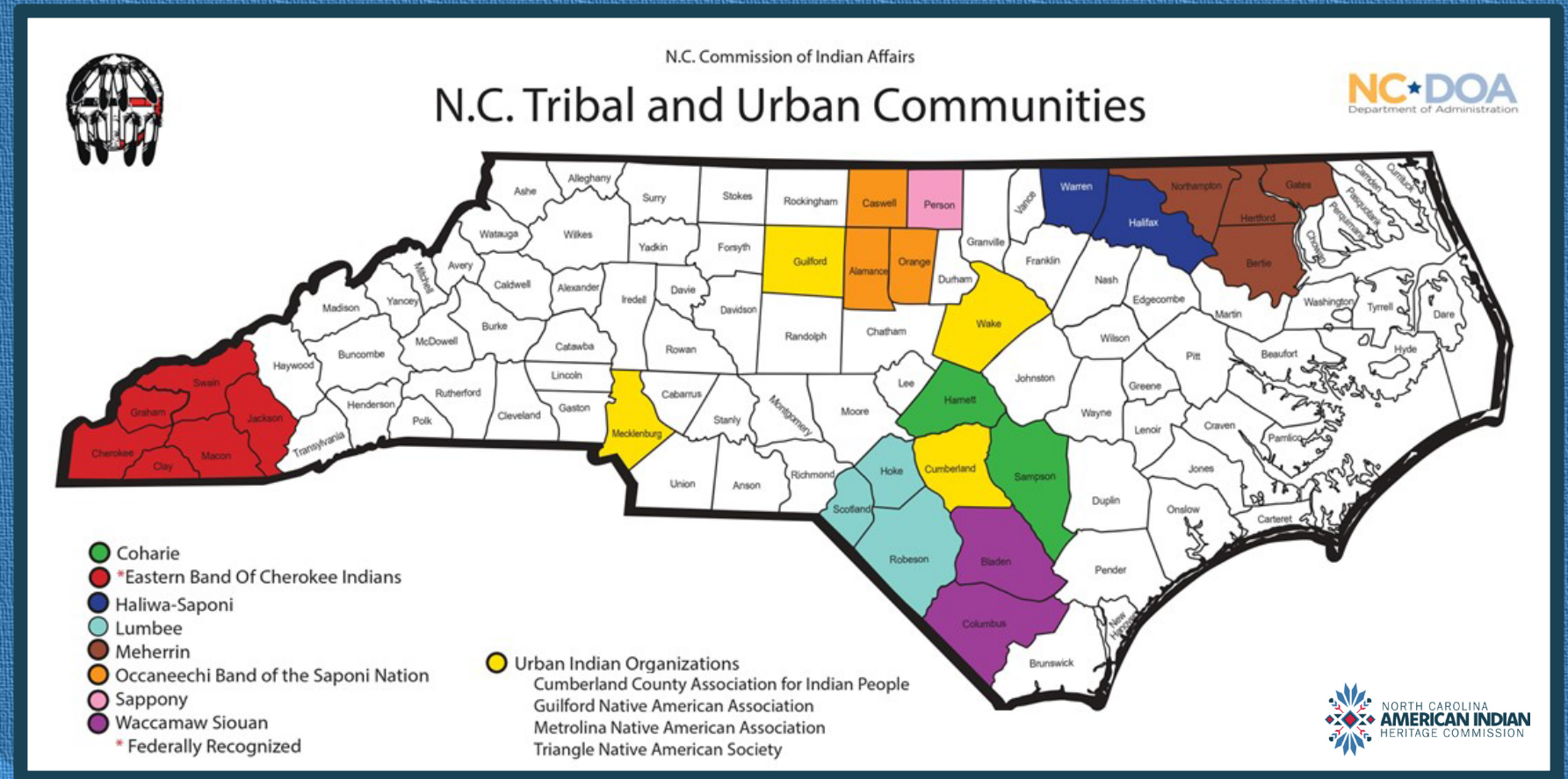


# Contemporary Tribal Territories

8 Tribes

&

4 Urban Indian Organizations



# NC Tribal Communities

## Coharie

Headquartered in Clinton, the Coharie Indian Tribe descends from the aboriginal Neusiok Indian Tribe on the Coharie River in Harnett and Sampson counties. The community consists of four settlements: Holly Grove, New Bethel, Shiloh, and Antioch. The Coharie have approximately 2,700 members with about 20 percent residing outside the tribal communities. Early records indicate the tribe sought refuge from hostilities from both English colonists and Native peoples, moving to this area between 1729 and 1746 from the northern and northeastern part of the state.



[Website](#)

## Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

The Cherokee people believe the Creator brought them to their home in the Mountains of western North Carolina. Their first village site is the Kituwah Mound in Swain County. It was there that the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians formed a government to oppose the removal of the Cherokee Nation from the east, known as the Trail of Tears. Members of the Eastern Band remained in North Carolina after their kinsmen were forced west to Oklahoma. Today, the only federally recognized tribe in North Carolina makes their home on the 56,000-acre Qualla Boundary, adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There are more than 16,000 enrolled members with over 60% living on the Boundary. The Qualla Boundary includes the town of Cherokee, as well as several other communities. Cherokee is home to Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort, one of Cherokee's largest employers.



[Website](#)

# NC Tribal Communities



[Website](#)

## Haliwa-Saponi

The Haliwa-Saponi tribal members are direct descendants of the Saponi, Tuscarora, Tutelo and Nansemond Indians. At 3,800 members, the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe is the third-largest tribe in the state. The tribe resides primarily in the area traditionally known by the elders as "The Meadows," which encompasses most of the southwestern part of rural Halifax County and the southeastern part of rural Warren County. Tribal members also reside in the adjoining counties of Nash and Franklin. The Haliwa-Saponi Powwow is the oldest powwow in the state, typically held in April.



[Website](#)

## Lumbee

The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe in North Carolina, the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River and the ninth largest in the nation. The Lumbee take their name from the Lumber River originally known as the Lumbee, which winds its way through Robeson County. The more than 35,000 members of the Lumbee Tribe reside primarily in Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland, and Scotland counties. Pembroke is the economic, cultural, and political center of the tribe. The ancestors of the Lumbee were mainly Cheraw and related Siouan-speaking Indians who were first observed in 1724 on the Drowning Creek (Lumbee River) in present-day Robeson County. In 1887, the state established the Croatan Normal Indian School, which is today the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. A variety of enterprises including an industrial park, farming, small businesses, and the University contribute to the economy.

# NC Tribal Communities

## Meherrin

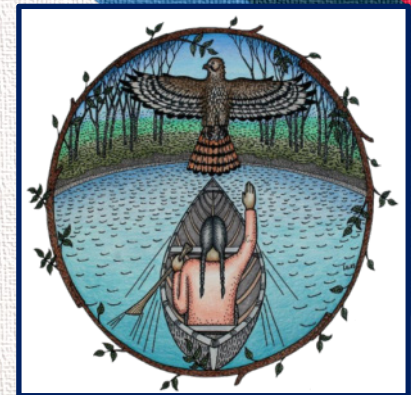
The Meherrin People, also known as Kauwets'a·ka (People of the Water), are an Iroquois Nation closely related to the Tuscarora, also known as Skaru·re ʔ (Hemp - Splitters), with whom they share a language, cultural ties, and a history of once being part of a people who long ago traveled East to the rising sun and took up residence in North Carolina. These people would go on to be known as Kahtehnuʔa·ka·ʔ (People of the Submerged Pine Tree), and it is from these people that the Nations of Kauwets'a·ka and Skaru·re ʔ would emerge. In 1680 Meherrin Chiefs Ununtequero and Horehannah signed an Addendum to the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation, which established two reservations for the Meherrin: Kauwitzihocken (Cowinchawkon), and Menderink. Over time, the Meherrin relocated downstream to the Meherrin towns of Unote and Tawarra, and eventually settled in present-day Maneys Neck, formerly known as Meherrin Neck. In 1726, the North Carolina General Assembly assigned a reservation to the Meherrin, and in 1729, "An Act for the More Quiet Settling the Bounds of the Meherrin Indian Lands" expanded their reservation to include the confluence of the Chowan and Meherrin Rivers. Today, the Meherrin Tribal members primarily reside in Hertford, Bertie, Northampton and Gates Counties, N.C.



[Website](#)

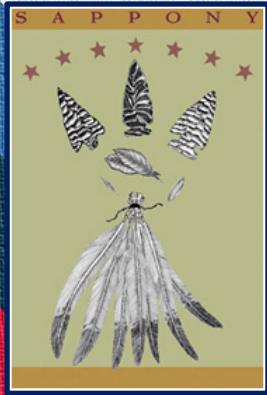
## Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation is located in Alamance, Caswell and Orange counties, with Tribal Grounds located in the Little Texas Community. At 1100+ members, the Occaneechi are the smallest of the officially state-recognized tribes, but its members are active in their community and in statewide Indian events. The Occaneechi descend from several small Siouan speaking tribes who were living in the Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia when the first European explorers arrived in the 1600s.



[Website](#)

# NC Tribal Communities



[Website](#)

## Sappony

The Sappony have made the Piedmont Highlands their home for countless generations. Today, the tribe's 850 members comprise seven core families, or clans, and live along the border of North Carolina and Virginia known as the High Plains. In the early 1700s, when the Sappony children were attending school at Fort Christanna and the tribe was guarding the frontier for the colonies, they were also helping to mark the North Carolina-Virginia border. As a result, part of High Plains is located in Person County, N.C., and part is located in Halifax County, Va. The tribe is actively pursuing initiatives in the areas of economic development, education, and cultural preservation.

## Waccamaw Siouan



[Website](#)

The Waccamaw, historically known as the Waccamassus, were formerly located 100 miles northeast of Charleston, SC. After the Waccamaw and South Carolina War in 1749, the Waccamaw sought refuge in the swamplands of North Carolina. The present day Waccamaw Siouan Tribal Office is located in Columbus and Bladen counties. The community, consisting of more than 2,000 citizens, is situated on the edge of the Green Swamp about 37 miles west of Wilmington, seven miles east of Lake Waccamaw and four miles north of Bolton.

# NC Urban Indian Communities

## Cumberland County Association for Indian People

The Cumberland County Association for Indian People (CCAIP) enhances self-determination and self-sufficiency as it relates to the socio-economic development, legal and political well-being of Native Americans in Cumberland County. Fostering healthier choices is one of many areas the CCAIP Board works on to improve the lives of its members.

Cumberland  
County  
Association for  
Indian People

Website

## Guilford Native American Association

The Guilford Native American Association is a Native American community association in Guilford County. It is a North Carolina State-recognized American Indian Organization and a United Way referral agency. Incorporated in September 1975 by local parents as a non-profit education advocacy group, the association has grown to encompass childcare, employment, and age-based community programs. It is the oldest American Indian urban association in North Carolina and one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the United States.



Website

# NC Urban Indian Communities

## Metrolina Native American Association

The Metrolina Native American Association promotes cultural awareness and economic development, provides job training and placement, and provides for the well-being of American Indians. Our community is served through culture enrichment classes, employment training, work experience opportunities and economic development assistance to help promote and preserve self-sufficiency and self-determination. All activities are coordinated with other Indian organizations and programs in the state.



[Website](#)

## Triangle Native American Society

Triangle Native American Society (TNAS) was incorporated in 1984 to promote and protect the identity of Native Americans living in Wake and surrounding counties by providing educational, social, and cultural programs. It was granted official state recognition in 2000 by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and serves as the official governing body for the Native American population in the Triangle area. TNAS seeks to foster a local Native community while bridging the various cultural and traditional practices members bring from their respective home tribal communities.

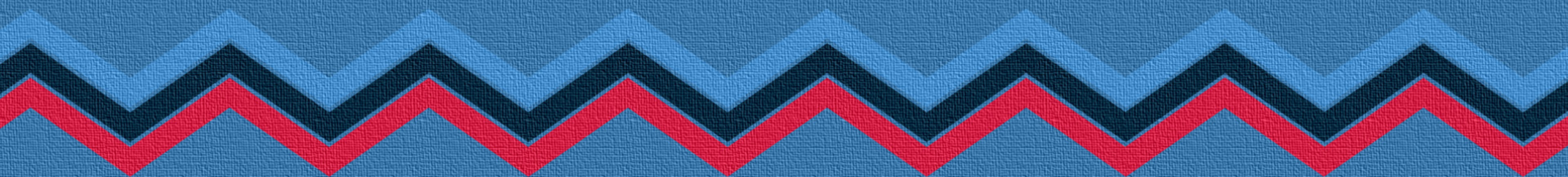


[Website](#)

# Heritage Month Resources

The NC American Indian Heritage Commission believes that celebrating and sharing the heritage of American Indians goes beyond the month of November. This November, and every month, we continue our work to preserve, protect, and promote North Carolina's American Indian history, arts, and culture for all people.

The following is a collection of resources to assist you in celebrating American Indian Heritage Month. We encourage you to interact with the toolkit by clicking on corresponding links for items that have been curated to enrich your sense of creativity and community. This 2024 American Indian Toolkit is a testament to North Carolina's vibrant culture and brilliant future.

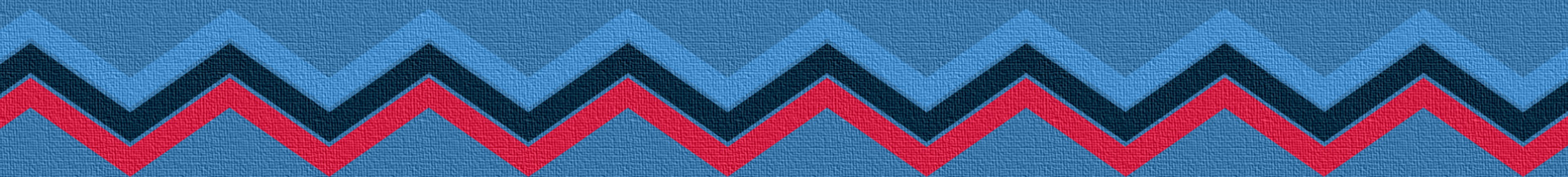




# Oral History Program

In partnership with the Oral History Unit in the N.C. Department of Natural & Cultural Resources' Division of State Archives, the N.C. American Indian Heritage Commission is collecting oral histories of individuals within our tribal communities across the state. These interviews reflect a variety of topics, such as attending former American Indian schools, military services, economic development, and much more.

Watch here:



# Speakers Bureau – DNCR Staff

The AIHC is leading a departmental effort to create a Speakers Bureau centered on sharing North Carolina’s American Indian history. In the meantime, staff and commissioners are available to assist with engagements. Additional information will be available on the AIHC website as we continue to share rich stories from our state’s indigenous history.

Contact us here for questions:



**Kerry D. Bird**  
Director



**Quinn West Godwin**  
Associate Director

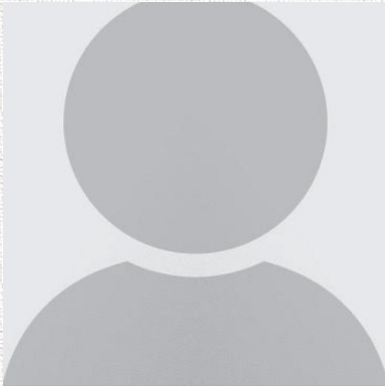


**Kaya Littleturtle**  
Cultural Festival Coordinator

# Speakers Bureau - Commissioners



Greg Jacobs  
Coharie



VACANT  
Eastern Band



Dr. Marvin Richardson  
Haliwa-Saponi



Nancy Strickland Chavis  
Lumbee



Jennifer R. Baxter  
Guilford Native



Sandon Jacobs  
Triangle Native



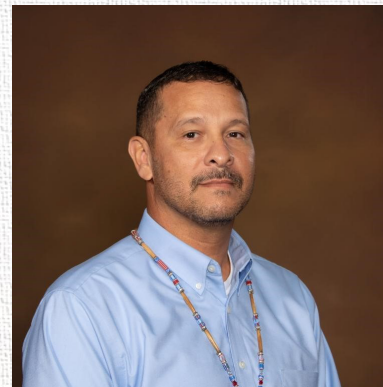
Jonathan Caudill  
Meherrin



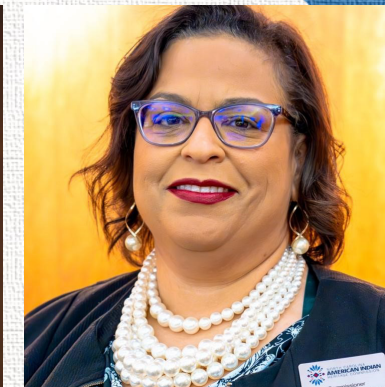
Forest Hazel  
Occaneechi



Kara Stewart  
Sappony



JD Moore  
Waccamaw-Siouan



Rebecca Locklear  
Cumberland County




Rebecca LaCalire  
Metrolina

# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Celebration

Festival  
Website

For Students & Educators

Free!  
Online  
Only



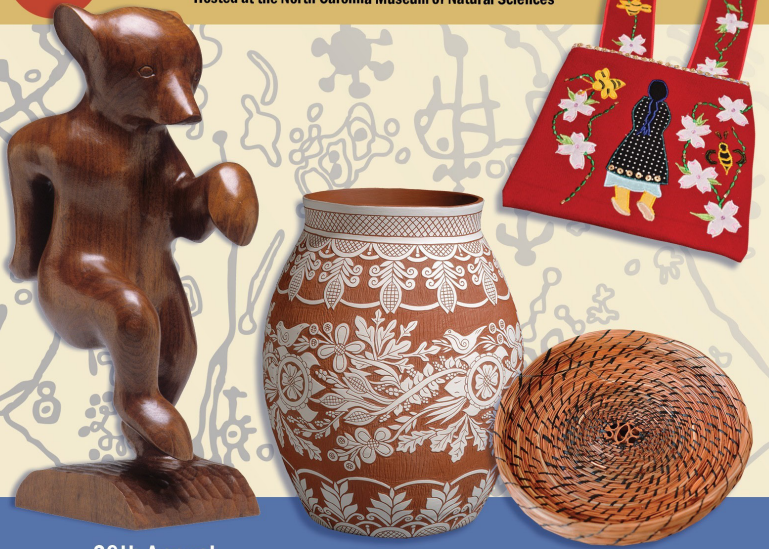
29th Annual  
**American** Heritage  
**INDIAN** *Celebration*

Education Day

Fri., Nov. 22, 2024    NC-AIHC.com

FREE  
EVENT


The North Carolina Museum of History presents the  
29th annual American Indian Heritage Celebration.  
Hosted at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences



29th Annual  
**American** Heritage  
**INDIAN** *Celebration*

Coharie    Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians    Haliwa-Saponi    Lumbee  
Meherrin    Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation    Sappony    Waccamaw Siouan

Saturday, November 23, 2024  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.



For more information,  
go to [NC-AIHC.com](http://NC-AIHC.com)  
or call 919-814-7000.

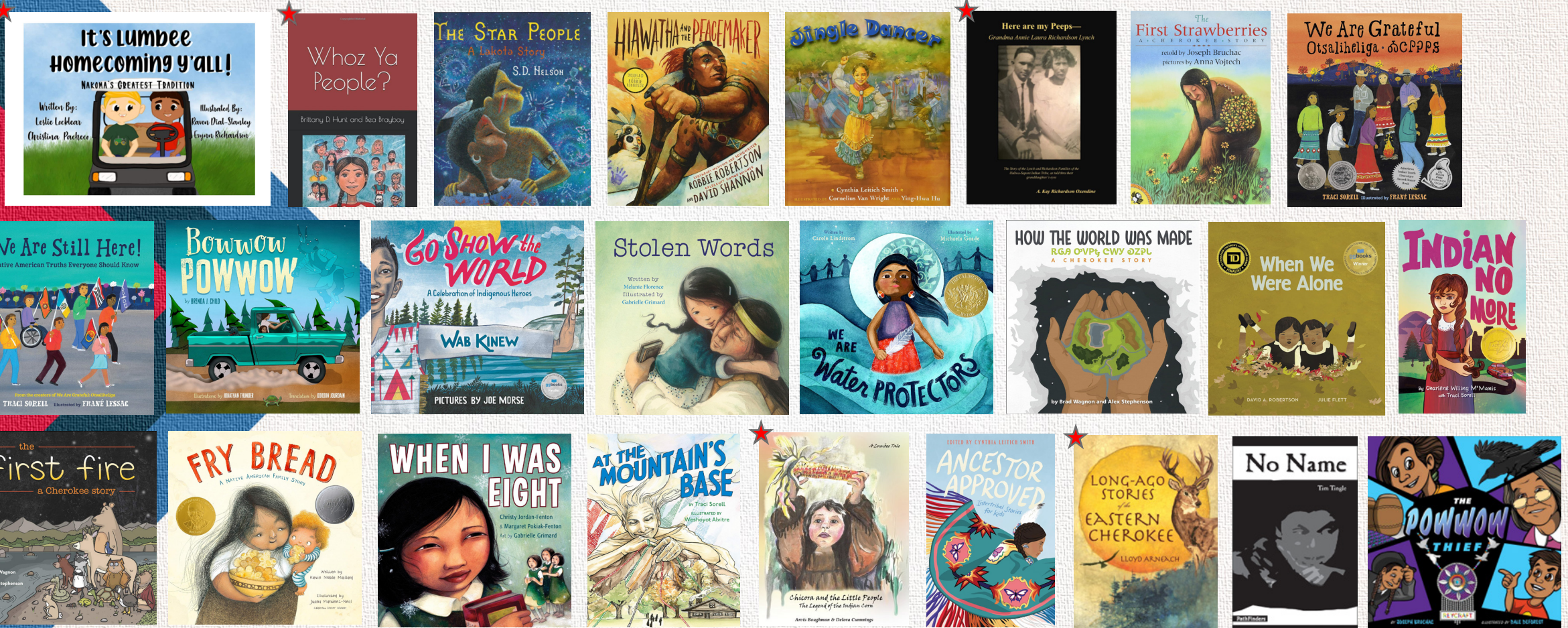
# Learning Materials & Lesson Plans

People have lived in North Carolina for at least 15,000 years. Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill hosts a website, [Ancient North Carolinians](#), that tells the story of who these people were, how they lived, and who they are today. It also provides access to learning material and lesson plans created by the RLA split into the following three sections (two sets of lesson plans and a virtual excavation):

1. [Exploring Indigenous Cultures: Ancient North Carolinians, Past and Present](#) are lesson plans developed as part of the 2021–2022 UNC World View Fellows Program for a variety of disciplines in K-12 schools and community colleges. Students can learn about the ancient peoples that lived here and those who represent today’s vibrant American Indian populations. Lessons also make connections from the past to the present day by exploring multiple resources within the [Ancient North Carolinians: A Virtual Museum of North Carolina Archaeology](#) website to examine how communities changed over time and what influenced these changes.
2. [Intrigue of the Past](#) is a book of lesson plans and information about North Carolina Indians. It was initially published in 2001; while it has seen updates since then, for consistency we have kept it organized according to the subject divisions at that time.
3. [Excavating Occaneechi Town](#) is a digital site report that describes and interprets the buried remains of an eighteenth-century Indian village in North Carolina. While we hope to be able to update it in the future, we present it here as a legacy link which may be used as is, or with your own adaptations.



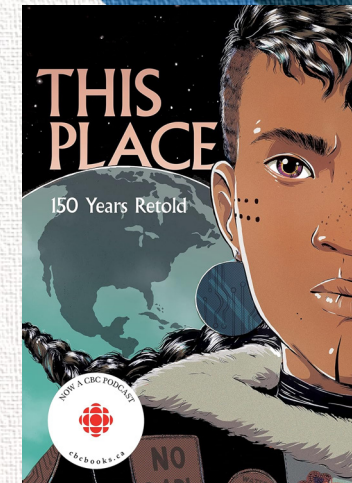
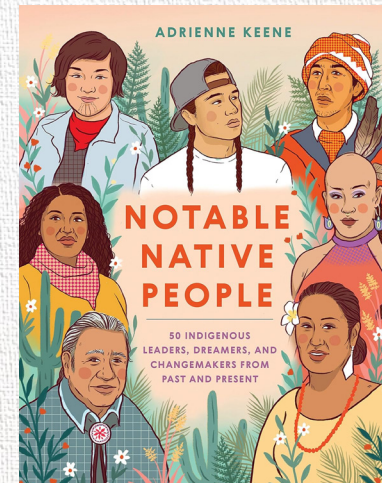
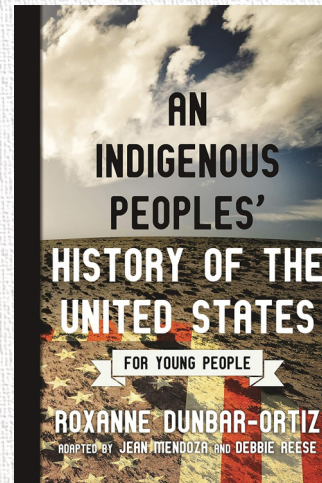
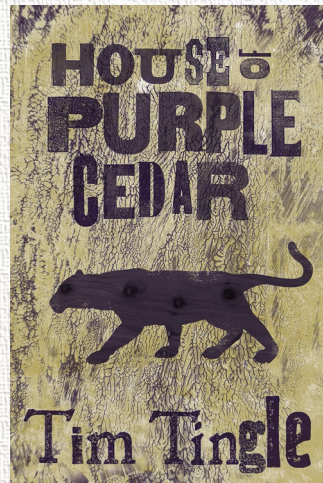
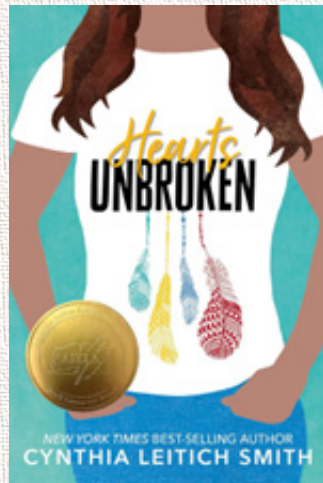
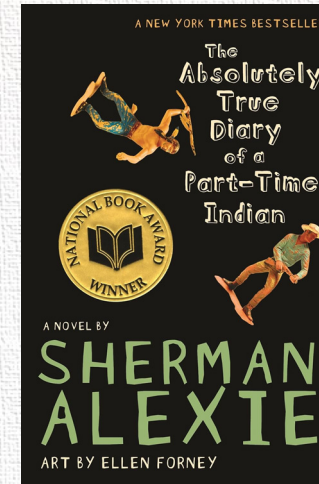
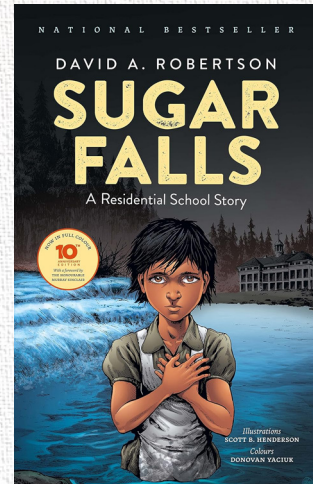
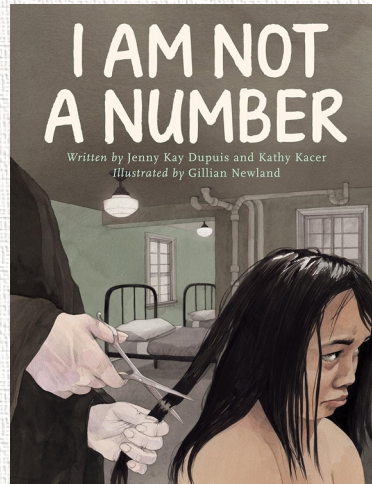
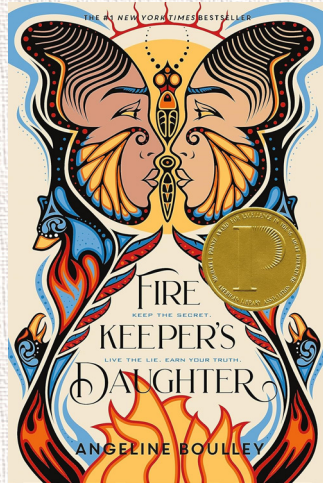
# American Indian Books - Children



Click to see the full list: [NCAIHC](#)



# American Indian Books - Teens

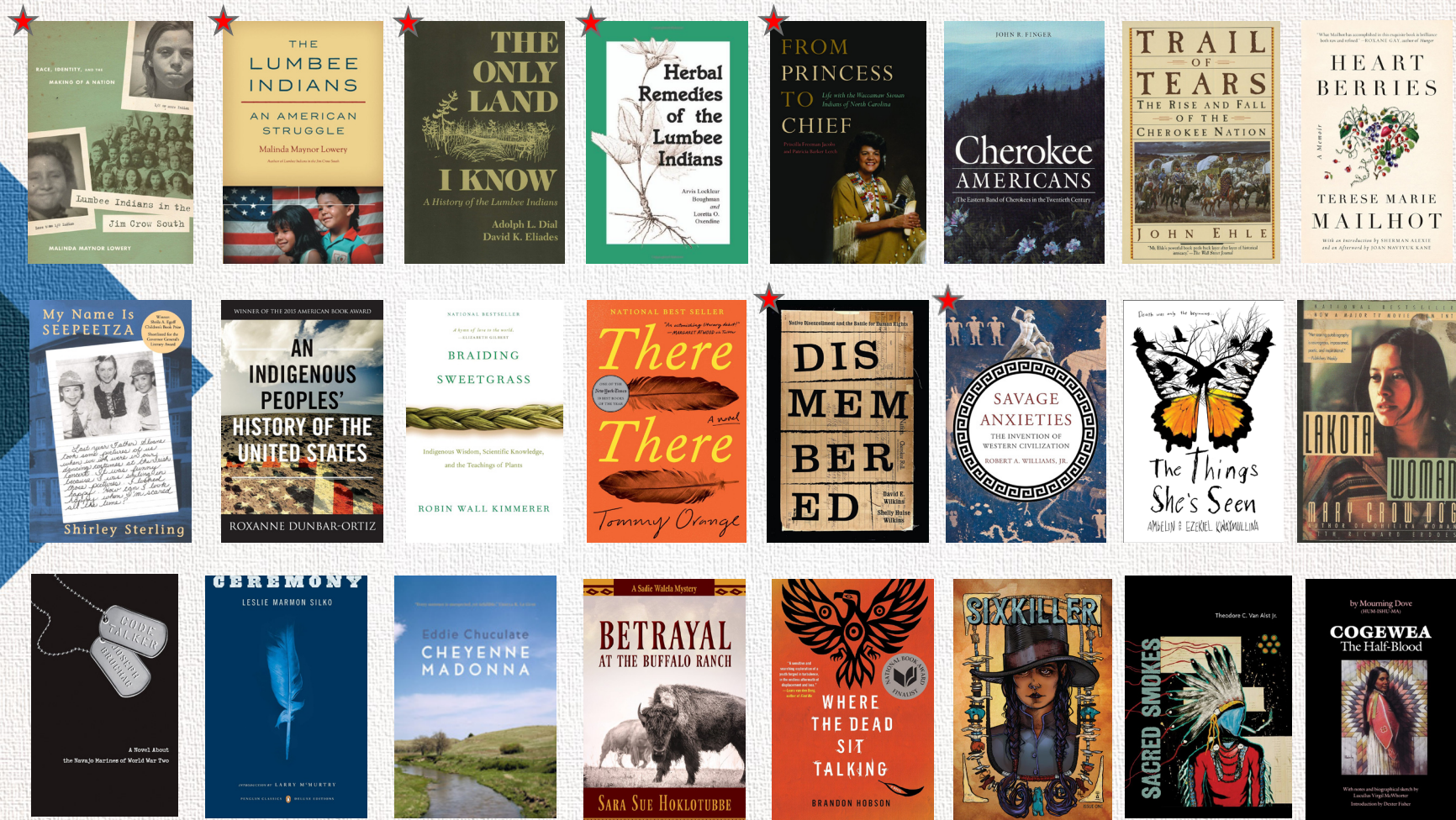


Click to see the full list: [NCAIHC](#)



NC Connection

# American Indian Books - Adults



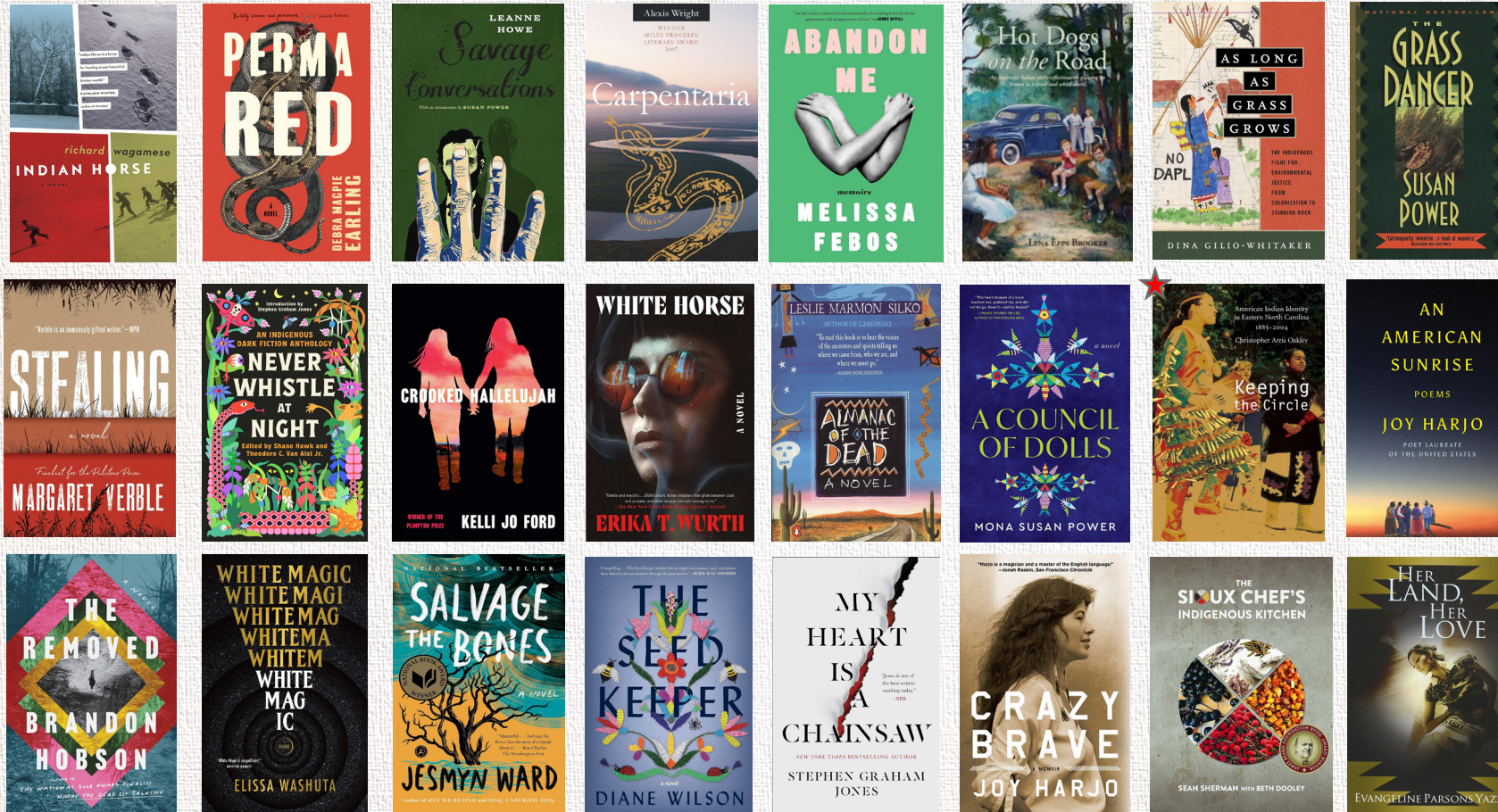
Click to see the full list: [NCAIHC](#)



NC Connection



# American Indian Books - Adults

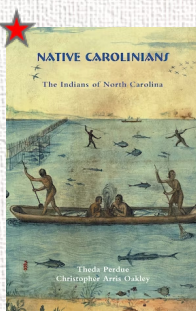
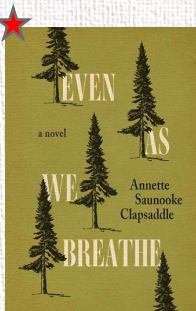
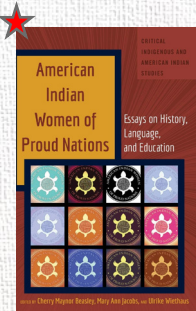
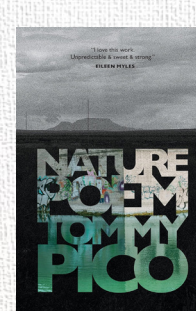
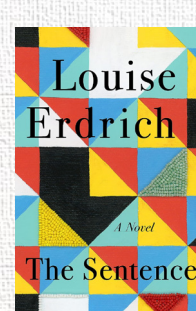
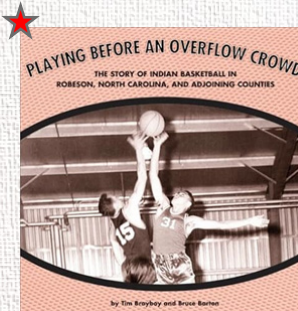
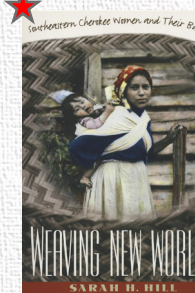
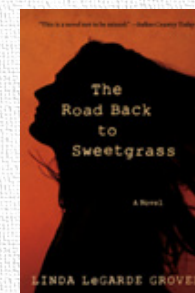
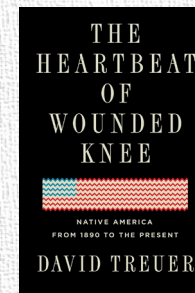
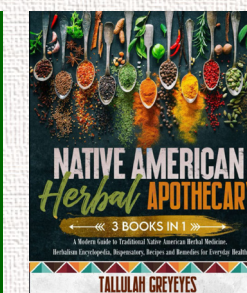
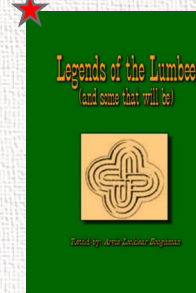
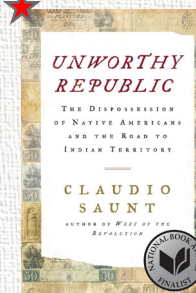
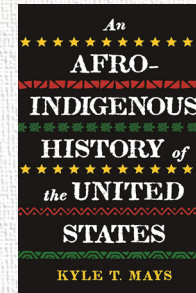
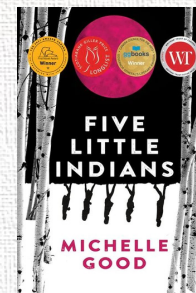
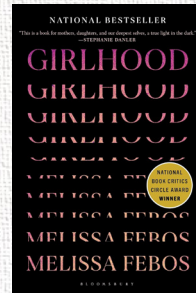
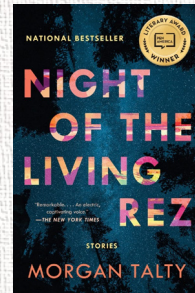


Click to see the full list: [NCAIHC](#)



NC Connection

# American Indian Books - Adults



Click to see the full list: [NCAIHC](#)



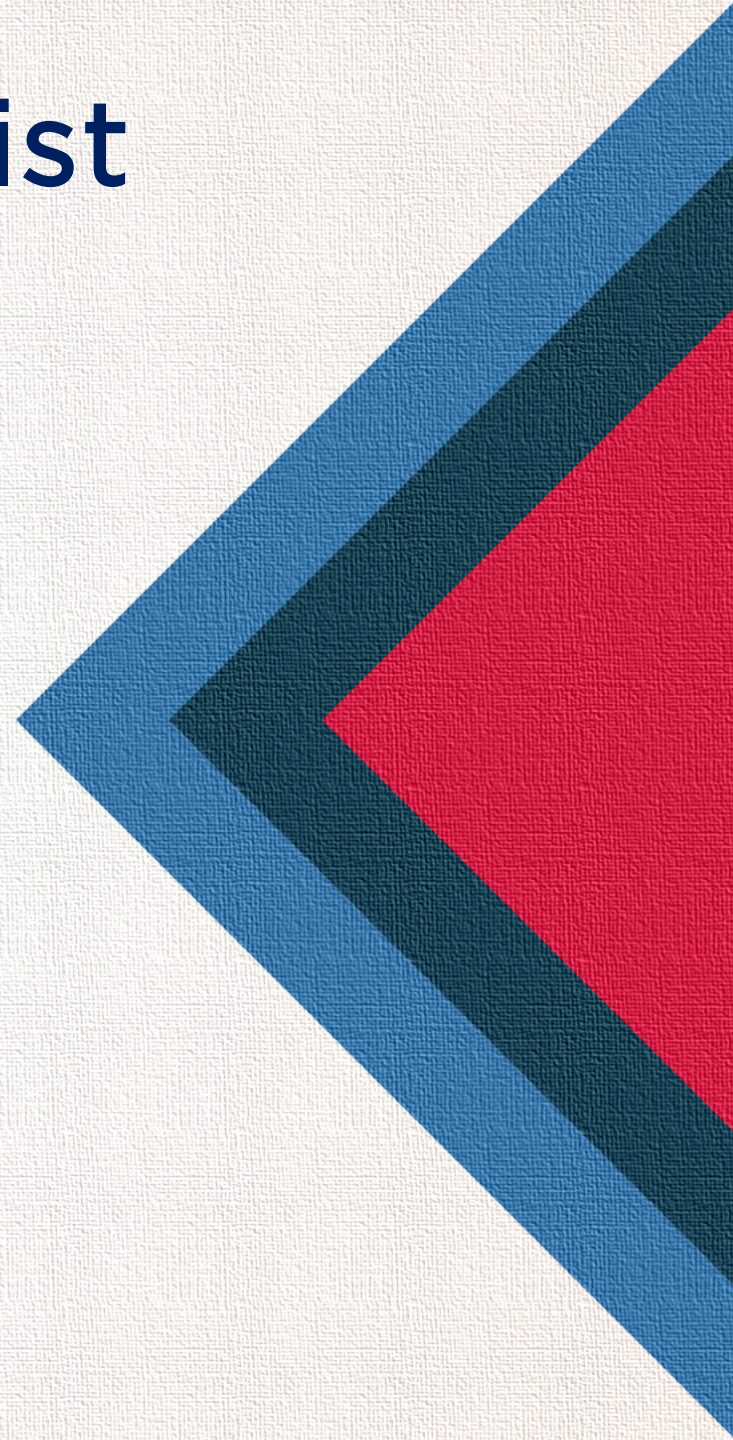
NC Connection

# Heritage Month Music Playlist

Click the button below to access the 2024 American Indian Heritage Month Spotify® playlist, featuring American Indian artists from right here in North Carolina!



Spotify®





# Educational Resources

- [State Advisory Council on Indian Education \(SACIE\)](#)
- [NC American Indian Fund Scholarship](#)
- [NC Native American Youth Organization](#)
- [UNCP American Indian Heritage Center](#)
- [UNC American Indian Center](#)
- [WCU Cherokee Center](#)
- [Tutelo-Saponi Monocan Living Dictionary](#)

# Organizational Resources

- [NC Commission of Indian Affairs](#)
- [United Tribes of North Carolina](#)
- [American Indian Women of Proud Nations](#)
- [Museum of the Southeast American Indian](#)
- [Museum of the Cherokee People](#)
- [Guilford Native American Art Gallery](#)
- [Frisco Native American Museum & Natural History Center](#)
- [Rankin Museum of American Heritage](#)
- [Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual, Inc.](#)



# Departmental Resources

- [NC Highway Historical Marker Program](#)
- [NC Office of State Archaeology](#)
- [NC Museum of History](#)
- [NC State Archives](#)
- [State Library of North Carolina](#)
- [NC Historic Sites](#)



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

# State Historic Sites



## Fort Dobbs

Ft. Dobbs provides a window into the tumultuous period of history known as the French and Indian War (1754-1763) or Seven Years War. As the only state historic site associated with the period, it represents North Carolina's link with a global war for empire that crossed five continents, lasted nearly a decade and sowed the seeds for independence.



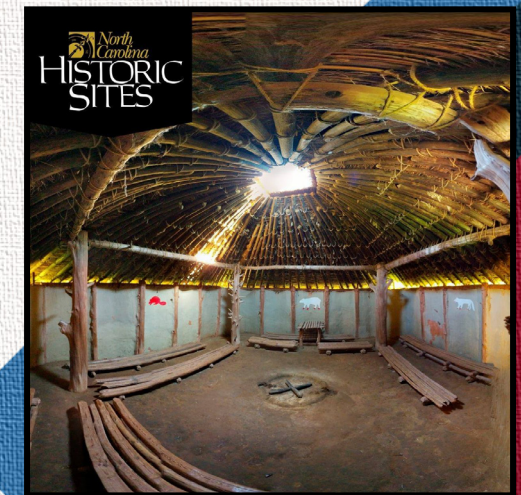
## Historic Bath

European settlement near the Pamlico River in the 1690s led to the founding of Bath, North Carolina's first town, in 1705. By 1708, Bath had 50 people and 12 houses. Political rivalries, Indian wars, and piracy marked its early years but in 1746 Bath was considered for the colony's capital.



## Roanoke Island Festival Park

Roanoke Island Festival Park is an interactive family attraction that celebrates the first English settlement in America. Visitors board and explore the park's centerpiece, a representational ship, Elizabeth II, and explore American Indian Town nearby.



## Town Creek Indian Mound

Town Creek Indian Mound is an unusual phenomenon in the history of North American archaeology. Situated on Little River (a tributary of the Great Pee Dee in central North Carolina), it has been the focus of a consistent program of archaeological research under one director for more than half a century.



A DIVISION OF THE NC DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

