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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2019 Volume III: American Democracy and the Promise of Justice

Áłchíní Bi Beehaz'áanii: Applying Navajo Fundamental Law to Preserve Cultural Heritage

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This curriculum is a historical account of how Indian policies that affects Native American tribes, especially laws and policies involving children. The relationship between Indian tribes and federal government have gone through period of progress and setbacks. This unit explores and explains the historical account of how Navajo tribe persevered, while other tribes struggled. Furthermore, it explores how Native Americans finally achieved sovereignty status, but still have to abide by laws of the country. In addition, the unit discusses the importance of children in Native American tribes, especially Navajo tribes, and how Indian Child Welfare Act effects the outcome of children who need to be adopted. Navajo Justice System has established Navajo Children's Code (Áłchíní Bi Beehaz'áanii Act, ABBA) using Fundamental Law to protect Navajo Children.

This unit is intended for students in grades 3rd – 5th to reintroduce content rich curriculum unit using a topic that effect the students' everyday lives. The unit is intended to teach comprehension skills using American Indian History and Social studies.

(Developed for Social Studies, grades 3-5, and Navajo Social Studies, grades 4-6)

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