

## ☀ Values

- Courage
- Tenacity
- Determination
- Ethnic Pride
- Patience
- Responsibility

## ☀ Reflection Questions

Why is it important for Native American people to have a tribal identity and culture?

If you were Ada, how would you feel about having your tribe “terminated?”

How did Ada use our democratic process to overturn the federal government’s decision?

What does the Native American philosophy of seven generations mean to them?

## ☀ Lessons Learned

It’s important to respect the Native American people and to help preserve their culture.

Being exposed to positive role models can help shape kids’ lives.

Summer camps can prepare young people to become future leaders.

To change laws, we must learn how the system works and use it to our advantage.

# Democracy in Action

Ada Deer

Wisconsin, America

Ada Deer’s mother taught her to study the spiritual traditions of her Native American tribal life and to commit herself to public service and social justice. “You are here to help people,” she would say. This is the dramatic story of how Ada led the Menominee people in overturning the federal government’s “termination.” In this groundbreaking victory, she used our country’s democratic process to reverse this injustice against her people. Thanks to Ada’s efforts, the tribe has come back from near collapse to restored physical and cultural well-being. “We have a saying that the hard work and determination of our people will benefit the next seven generations to come,” says Ada.

## ☀ Language Arts

Develop a reading list of books and educational videos on Native American people, their customs, traditions and heritage. Write a report on the contribution they have made. Invite someone from a local Native American tribe to tell about their life and share their handcrafts, clay, beadwork, paintings, music and dance. Create a calendar that includes the history of different ethnic holidays and post in school. Research and report on the contributions of Native American tribes to our country.

## ☀ Social Studies

Research the history of treaties the U.S. government has made with Native American tribes. How many of the tribes were terminated? How many of them have been reinstated? Write a report describing their rights according to the treaties and what happened in reality. Study the progress they’ve made towards creating self-reliance and healthy communities. Organize a school trip to Washington D.C. to visit government offices. Attend a session of Congress. Learn how someone like Ada can present ideas and gain support of Congress. Study the history and the contributions of the Native American people in your state.

## ☀ Community Service

Help Native American leaders to organize a youth Pow Wow to celebrate their culture. Organize an event to encourage multicultural awareness. Advertise with colorful posters. Investigate local Native American activities, like Powwows, that are open to the public. Encourage students to attend Encampment for Citizenship’s six-week training program so they can learn to create democracy in action in your school or community <http://encampmentforcitizenship.org>