
WIT & WISDOM PARENT TIP SHEET

WHAT IS MY FIFTH GRADE STUDENT LEARNING IN MODULE 1?

Wit & Wisdom is our English curriculum. It builds knowledge of key topics in history, science, and literature through the study of excellent texts. By reading and responding to stories and nonfiction texts, we will build knowledge of the following topics:

Module 1: Cultures in Conflict

Module 2: Word Play

Module 3: A War Between Us

Module 4: Breaking Barriers

In this first module, *Cultures in Conflict*, we will ask what it means to belong to a culture. How do a culture's beliefs guide the actions of its people? And what happens when different cultures come into conflict?

OUR CLASS WILL READ THESE TEXTS:

Novel

- *Thunder Rolling in the Mountains*, Scott O'Dell and Elizabeth Hall

Speech

- "Lincoln Hall Speech," Washington, D.C., January 14, 1879, Chief Joseph, Nez Perce

Stories

- "Coyote and the Monster Story" Parts 1, 2, and 3, told by J. R. Spencer
- "How Beaver Stole Fire from the Pines"

OUR CLASS WILL EXAMINE THESE WORKS OF ART:

Paintings

- *Chief Joseph, Nez Perce Chief, Head-and-shoulders Portrait, Facing Forward*, E. A. Burbank
- *The White Cloud, Head Chief of the Iowas*, George Catlin
- *Portrait of George Washington*, Gilbert Stuart

Photography

- “Chief Joseph and his Family c. 1880,” F.M. Sargent

OUR CLASS WILL WATCH THIS VIDEO:

- “A Landscape of History”

OUR CLASS WILL ASK THESE QUESTIONS:

- How did the United States westward expansion impact Native American cultures in the West?
- How did the Nez Perce’s homeland sustain their lifestyle and culture?
- What role do stories play in Nez Perce culture?
- How does the conflict between the Nez Perce and the US government reveal differing cultural beliefs and values?
- What important beliefs and values guide Chief Joseph and his daughter, Sound of Running Feet?
- What important Nez Perce beliefs and values does Chief Joseph convey in his Lincoln Hall speech?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AT HOME:

As your fifth grade student reads, ask:

- *What do you notice and wonder?*

BOOKS TO READ AT HOME:

- *Sacajawea*, Joseph Bruchac
- *Trail of Tears*, Joseph Bruchac
- *A History of US: The New Nation*, Joy Hakim
- *How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis and Clark*, Rosalyn Schanzer
- *Only the Names Remain: The Cherokees and the Trail of Tears*, Alex W. Bealer
- *Seaman’s Journal: On the Trail with Lewis and Clark*, Patricia Eubank
- *Zia*, Scott O’Dell
- *Sing Down the Moon*, Scott O’Dell
- *Julie of the Wolves*, Jean Craighead George
- *The Birchbark House*, Louise Erdrich
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, Scott O’Dell
- *Salt: A Story of Friendship in Times of War*, Helen Frost

PLACES YOU CAN VISIT TO TALK ABOUT CULTURE:

Visit a local cultural center that celebrates your culture or another culture. Ask:

- *What are some traditions of this culture?*
- *What do you notice about this culture?*
- *What do you wonder about this culture?*