



God Across Cultures: Our Native American Friends



Earth Day is on April 22. It reminds us to take good care of the Earth. Native Americans are also known as American Indians. They teach that the Creator wants us to respect and care for the Earth in all we do.

Welcome: This is the Day

Leader: This is the day

All: This is the day

Leader: That the Lord has made.

All: That the Lord has made.

Leader: Let us rejoice

All: Let us rejoice

Leader: And be glad in it.

All: And be glad in it.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. REPEAT



Greeting: Hello or Peace

Hallo "Ha low" (German) _____

CIAO "CHOW" (Italian) _____

Hello (English) _____

Ni háo "Nee how" (Chinese) _____

Hola "Oh la" (Spanish) _____

Kamusta "Ka MOOSE tah" (Filipino) ____

Shalom! "Sha lome" (Hebrew) _____

Salvete! "Sal veh tay" (Latin) _____

Habari "Ha bar ee" (Swahili) _____

American Sign Language see above ____

Boozhoo "Boo ZHOO" (Ojibwe) _



Scripture:

Psalm 24:1-2: The earth and every thing in it belong to the Lord. The world belongs to Him. The people belong to Him.

Explore: The Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) Creation Story

Gitche Manitou is the Great Spirit and Creator. Gitche Manitou created rock, fire, and wind from nothing. He breathed life into them. Each had powers that became their souls. The Creator formed the sun, stars, moon, and earth. On earth, the Creator made mountains, valleys, plains, lakes, and rivers. Everything was in its place. Everything was beautiful.

Explore: (continued)

Gitche Manitou made the flowers, grasses, trees, and vegetables. He gave them a spirit of life, growth, healing, and beauty. Then, Gitche Manitou created animals. Each had special powers. Last, he made humans. Humans had the greatest gift – the power to dream. Then, Gitche Manitou created laws of nature for the well-being of all.



Sing: For the Beauty of the Earth | United Methodist Hymn 92

(See Music and Activity Page)



Discuss:

- Today's Bible verse helps us remember God created everything. Also, every person and everything God created is special and good.
- What is the same in the Bible story and the Ojibwe (OjibWAY) story? _____

- What do you remember about the Creation story in Genesis? _____
- What did God say about what He created? _____
- How does the Ojibwe story end? _____
- Native people believe it is important to take good care of the Earth. Always say "thank you" for the gifts it provides. [*Zoom: show collages*]
- To Native Americans, every day is Earth Day. They believe it is our duty to care for Mother Earth. How can you care for the earth? (recycle, plant, wise water use) _____



Pray:

Thank you, creating God, for the Earth.

Help us to care for it.

Help us remember every step on this beautiful earth can be a prayer.

Amen.



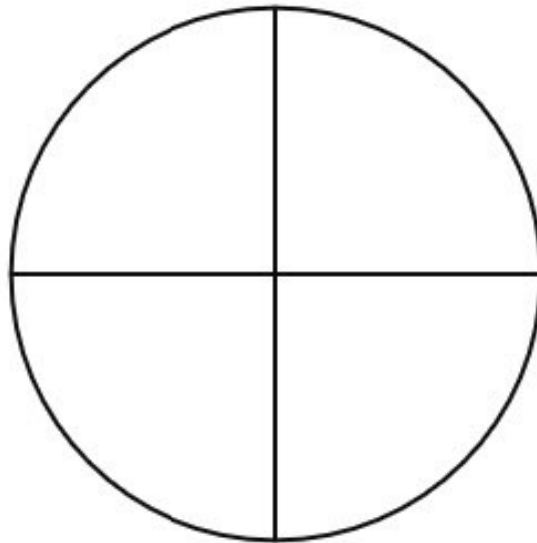
Song: For the Beauty of the Earth | United Methodist Hymn 92

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
Or the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies;
Lord of all to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise. Amen

Activities:

Medicine Wheel Materials: (Crayons or markers, scissors and tape)

Color this medicine wheel. Each section, Red, Yellow, Black and White, represents the four directions, winds or seasons. Cut it out and tape it to a wall.



Sacred Plants Collage Materials: (Plants as available, sturdy paper, glue or decoupage, scissors)

Design and attach wild rice, sage, cedar, birch bark, corn and sweet grass.

Before Next Time:

Step and Pray. Black Elk was an important Native American leader. He said, “As you walk upon the sacred earth, treat each step as a prayer.” For each word, take a step or roll along (Thank you God is three steps).

Take a field trip to a Native American museum.

Learn more: In the past, the government and churches forcefully took away land and many human rights of Native Americans. Today over 5 million Native people live in the USA. Our church is in mission with tribes and communities. We affirm the sacredness of American Indians, their languages, culture, and gifts to the world.” (2016 Book of Resolutions 3321)