

Nuu~ciu Strong



A Colorado Fourth Grade Resource Guide
Lessons about the Ute People of Colorado

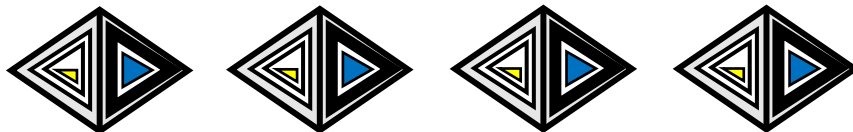




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Motorcycle Rally - Bennett Thompson



Source: Used with permission from Jeremy Wade Shockley, The Southern Ute Drum.





Introduction

Colorado is very fortunate to have the Southern Ute tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute tribe and the Ute Indian tribe as part of Colorado's past and present. **Nuu-ciu Strong** is a resource for fourth grade educators to use to support teaching the history, culture, and present lives of the Ute people. This resource was developed in collaboration with Colorado's Ute tribes, the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, the Colorado Department of Education, History Colorado, Denver Public Library, Denver Art Museum, and educators statewide. However, contributions for this resource extend well beyond the listed organizations. The kindness of many, resulted in comprehensive lessons that truly showcase the Ute people.

Nuu-ciu Strong is from the perspective of the tribes. The generosity of Colorado's tribes are in the stories, illustrations, and traditions shared throughout the lessons. The lessons in **Nuu-ciu Strong** are divided into five different units:

1. Ute History
2. People, Places and Environment
3. Cultural Heritage and Diversity
4. Cultural and Social Structures
5. Citizenship

All five units are directly aligned to *Essential Understandings* used to develop common thinking around what Colorado's fourth grade students need to know about Colorado's Ute people. Recently, Colorado's Academic Standards underwent a review and revision process. The most current 2020 standards are included in each lesson in order to provide teachers with a description of what students need to know, understand and be able to do.

Colorado's fourth grade students have a unique opportunity to learn about Colorado's earliest inhabitants from the inhabitants themselves. This is an opportunity Coloradans cannot take for granted. **Nuu-ciu Strong** is a gateway into the world of the Ute people, both past and present. The Southern Ute tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe live strong in Colorado today. In order for Colorado to continue to understand, appreciate and preserve Colorado's Ute tribes, educators have a responsibility to teach about the long and rich history of the tribes as well as the contributions of today.

*Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow.
Walk beside me that we may be as one.*

Ute Indian Proverb





UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

P.O. Box 248
Towaoc, Colorado 81334-0248
(970) 565-3751

May 17, 2018

Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom It May Concern,

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe is pleased to be a part of the newly developed Ute History fourth grade curriculum. It is a historic moment for Colorado education and Ute people.

When this curriculum is taught, Colorado students, families and teachers will have a deeper knowledge of the Ute Tribe's history and people. As the oldest and most enduring inhabitants in the State of Colorado, we want others to learn about our history, traditions and culture.

We are pleased that this endeavor will be part of the 2018-2019 Colorado school curriculum. Our Tribal Elders and Historians have participated in the curriculum development, and we feel confident that the materials are accurate.

We look forward to a continued relationship with the Colorado Department of Education. We want to thank the Lt. Governor's office staff for their guidance in this process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harold Cuthair".

Harold Cuthair, Chairman
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

December 28, 2017

Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80202

To Whom It May Concern,

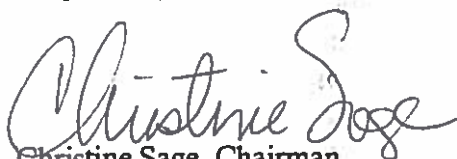
Mique! On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, we are excited to be a part of this process to develop fourth grade curriculum in regards to the Ute History as the Indigenous people of this great state of Colorado.

Developing the curriculum means that all students, their families and teachers will have a better understanding of who the Utes were and who we are now. It is very important to understand, respect and honor the Ute culture and traditions and how we interacted with other Tribes, the Spanish and the Europeans. We would not be who we have become; a successful leader in Indian Country, the state of Colorado and the United States without these relationships.

We are excited to see curriculum in place for the upcoming academic year, 2018-2019. As technology advances and the education system adapts, our Ute history and culture will not change; rather the delivery of this curriculum must acclimate to the ever changing education climate. From time to time we would like to collaborate with Colorado Department of Education and review the curriculum for its accuracy.

We look forward to continuing our relationship. We are making history! Chairman Clement J. Frost and the previous Administration were honored to be a part of this process. Tog'oi'ok!

Respectfully,


Christine Sage, Chairman
Southern Ute Indian Tribe



Acknowledgements

Nuu-ciu Strong, is a result of dedicated and committed individuals and organizations working collaboratively to bring the history, culture, and stories of the Colorado Ute people to our 4th grade classrooms. The Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs would like to acknowledge the Colorado Ute Tribes, Colorado Department of Education, History Colorado, Ute Indian Museum (Montrose), and Colorado teachers for their support. The talents of these individuals and organizations made this fourth grade resource guide possible.

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Betty Howe, Elder Committee, Towaoc, CO

Tina King -Washington, Director, Ute Mountain Ute Education Department, Towaoc, CO

Terry Knight Sr., Tribal Historian, Towaoc, CO

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History Colorado, Steve Turner

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Essential Understandings

The Ute Tribes are an integral part of Colorado's identity. Understanding Colorado's Ute Indian Tribes, histories, cultures, and contemporary lives deepens knowledge and perspectives on Colorado today. The Colorado Ute curriculum units were a collaborative effort to ensure a comprehensive representation of Colorado's Ute Indian people. In an attempt to build consensus around what students should know about Colorado's Ute, the Colorado tribes and educators developed the following *Essential Understandings*.

Essential Understanding 1: Ute History - Relations & Interactions

History is a story most often related through the individual experiences of the teller. With the inclusion of more and varied voices, histories are being rediscovered and revised. History told from an American Indian perspective frequently conflicts with the stories mainstream historians tell; therefore, to understand the history and cultures of Colorado's Ute Tribes requires understanding history from the perspectives of each tribe.

Essential Understanding 2: Relationship with the Land

For thousands of years, indigenous people have studied, managed, honored, and thrived in their homelands. These foundations continue to influence American Indian relationships and interactions with the land today.

Essential Understanding 3: Diversity & Cultural Heritage

Culture is a result of human socialization. People acquire knowledge and values by interacting with other people through common language, place (land), and community. In Colorado, there is distinct cultural diversity among the Ute Tribes that span history from time immemorial to the present day. Each nation's distinct and unique cultural heritage contributes to modern Colorado. These foundations continue to influence Ute cultural heritage, relationships, and interactions today.

Essential Understanding 4: Culture & Social Structures

Colorado Ute Tribal identity is developed, defined and redefined by entities, organizations and people. Ute individual development and identity is tied to language/culture and the forces that have influenced and changed culture over time. Unique social structures, such as rites of passage and protocols for nurturing and developing individual roles in tribal society, characterize each Ute culture. Colorado Ute cultures have always been dynamic and adaptive in response to interactions with others.

Essential Understanding 5: Citizenship

Today, the Ute People in Colorado continue to play a significant role in many aspects of political, legal, cultural, environmental, and economic issues. The ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship have always been a part of Ute Indian society. The rights and responsibilities of Ute individuals have been defined by the values, morals, and beliefs common to their culture. Today, they may be citizens of their tribal nations, the states they live in, and the United States.

The *Essential Understandings* are big ideas regarding what teachers and students should know about the Ute Tribes in Colorado. The understandings are linked to rich content through five major units for teaching about the Ute Tribes. The core understandings were developed to establish mutual perspective and, through education, eliminate potential bias. These *Essential Understandings* support deeper levels of curriculum development and help avoid unintended content. They are gateway standards, or entry points, into the rich histories, cultures, and perspectives of each Colorado tribe.





The Circle of Life

The Circle of Life is a central theme of Ute life and it is captured visually throughout **Nuu-ciu Strong**. The Ute people have a unique relationship with the land, plants, and all things living. The Circle of Life represents the unique relationship in its shape, colors, and reference to the number four, which represents ideas and qualities for the existence of life.

The People of the early Ute Tribes lived a life in harmony with nature, each other, and all of life. The Circle of Life symbolizes all aspects of life. The Circle represents the Cycle of Life from birth to death of People, animals, all creatures, and plants. The early Ute People understood this cycle. They saw its reflection in all things. This brought them great wisdom and comfort. The Eagle is the spiritual guide of the People and of all things. Traditionally, the Eagle appears in the middle of the Circle.

The Circle is divided into four sections. In the Circle of Life, each section represents a season: spring is red, summer is yellow, fall is white, and winter is black. The Circle of Life joins together the seasonal cycles and the life cycles. Spring represents Infancy, a time of birth, of newness-the time of “Spring Moon, Bear Goes Out.” Summer is Youth. This is a time of curiosity, dancing, and singing. Fall represents Adulthood, the time of manhood and womanhood. This is the time of harvesting and of change - “When Trees Turn Yellow” and “Falling Leaf Time.” Winter begins for gaining wisdom and knowledge - of “Cold Weather Here.” Winter represents Old Age; a time to prepare for passing into the spirit world.

The Circle also symbolizes the annual journey of the People. In this journey, the People moved from their winter camp to the mountains in the spring. They followed trails known to each family group for generations. The People journeyed to each family group for generations. The People journeyed as the animals did. Following the snowmelt, they traveled up to their summer camps. In the fall, as the weather changed, the People began their journey back to their winter camps. Once again, they followed the animal migrations into lower elevations. They camped near streams, rivers, springs, and lakes. These regions provided winter shelter and warmth.

The early People carried with them an intricate knowledge of nature. They understood how to receive the rich and abundant gifts that the Earth, Sky, and Spirit provided. They also understood how to sustain these gifts. They took only what was needed. The People used the plants, animals, and the Earth wisely. They gave gifts in return. This knowledge was the People’s wealth.

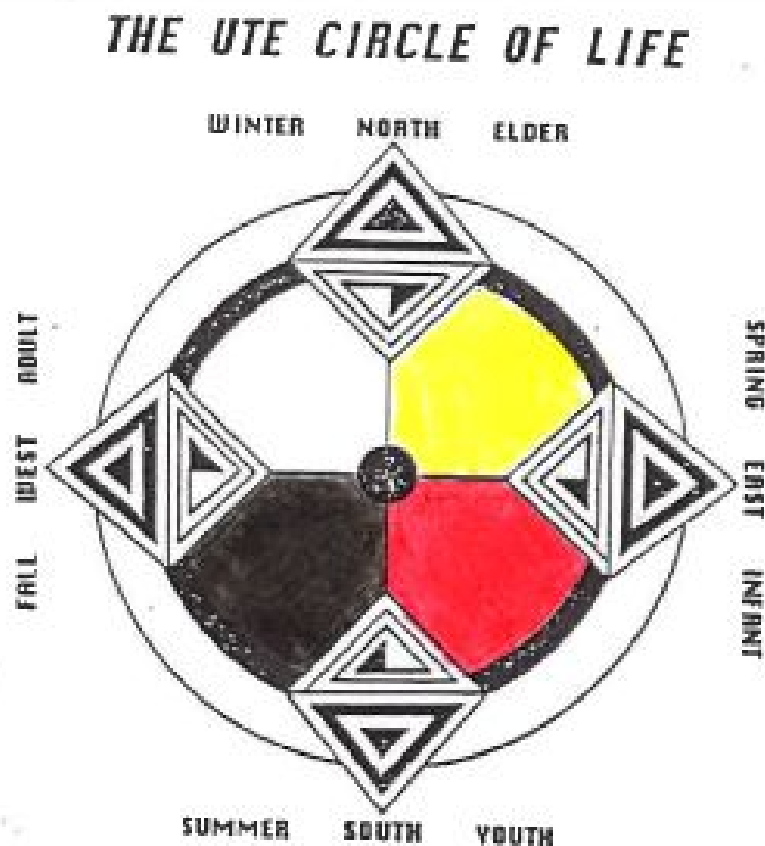
The Circle of Life is the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the Ute. This heritage is still alive in the life cycle and seasonal cycles of today. It still is alive within the harmony of nature. It is reflected in the acknowledgement and practice of honoring and respecting all things, people, and relationships. The Circle design can be found on the back of traditionally made hand drums. These drums are important ceremonial instruments for the People today.





The Circle of Life

The early heritage of the Ute is the true wealth of today's People. This heritage provides an eternal guide for their way of life. The early Utes have given great gifts of knowledge and wisdom to their descendants. These treasures are just as relevant today as they were for their Ancestors. The Circle of Life is a symbol that represents the Ute People's rich, full and beautiful heritage.







Source: Image provided by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.





History Colorado: Ute Tribal Paths & the Ute Resource Guide


History Colorado's *Ute Tribal Paths* Online Exhibit (http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/utes/utes_home.html) provides supplemental videos, images and content that highlights some of the lessons found in **Nuu-ciu Strong**. Teachers may choose to have students work on earning a Digital Badge while progressing through the Ute Tribal Paths exhibit.

Nuu-ciu Strong	Ute Tribal Paths	Navigation
Unit 1: Lesson 1	Hides for Horses (Origins) Ute Creation Story Includes: Ute Language, Sleeping Ute Mountain, & Ute Origins.	 Click on first horse on the left
Unit 1: Lesson 3	Hides for Horses (Hides for Horses) An overview of how the acquisition of the horse changed the lives of the Ute.	 Click on the horse on the right
Unit 1: Lesson 4 (Click on the "Invasion" button at the bottom of the screen)	Invasion (Explore 1847-1896) A variety of events that changed the relationship between the Ute and the U.S. government.	 Select the grey highlighted beads to learn more about the time period from 1847-1896
Unit 1: Lesson 6 (Click on the "Reservation Life" button at the bottom of the screen)	Reservation Life (Schools) A look at life in Indian Boarding Schools.	 Click on "Schools"








History Colorado: Ute Tribal Paths & the Ute Resource Guide

Nuu-ciu Strong	Ute Tribal Paths	Navigation
Unit 1: Lesson 4 & Unit 2: Lesson 1	Reservation Life (Allotments) An overview of how the Ute slowly lose their territory.	 Click on "Allotment"
Unit 2: Lesson 1	Hides for Horses (Living on the Land) An overview of why the Ute moved with the seasons.	 Click on the horse/Ute in the middle, then click on the video icon to view the video about Ute migration
Unit 2: Lesson 1	Reservation Life (Reservation Life) A description of Ute life on the reservations.	 Click on "Reservation Life"
Unit 3: Lesson 1	We Are Still Here (The Bear Dance) A short video explaining the Bear Dance, narrated by Alden Naranjo, Elder, Southern Ute Tribe.	 Click on the people dancing in the middle





History Colorado: Ute Tribal Paths & the Ute Resource Guide

Nuu-ciu Strong	Ute Tribal Paths	Navigation
Unit 3: Lesson 2	<p>Hides for Horses (Living on the Land)</p> <p>Explanations about life for the Ute during the 4 seasons</p>	 <p>Click on the horse/Ute in the middle, then click on the 4 seasons buttons</p>
<p>Unit 5: Lesson 3</p> <p>(Click on the “We Are Still Here” button at the bottom of the screen)</p>	<p>We Are Still Here (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe)</p> <p>A description of the lives of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe today.</p>	 <p>Click on Chief Ignacio on the left</p>
Unit 5: Lesson 3	<p>We Are Still Here (Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation)</p> <p>A description of the lives of the Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray today.</p>	 <p>Click on Chief Ouray and Chipeta</p>

