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February 2017

Did You Know?

Alaska was the first state in the country to pass a comprehensive anti-discrimination bill. Like Native Americans in the lower 48 states, Alaska Natives struggled to keep their basic human rights as well as protect their ancient ties to the land. The Bill of Rights did not apply to them.

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Celebrate Elizabeth Peratrovich Day - Feb. 16

For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska



As we recognize the struggle for human rights, help students learn about those not as well known in the lower 48 states who took part in the struggle to address discrimination as it directly affected them.

Hear the story of a young Tlingit activist, [Elizabeth Peratrovich](#), who gave dramatic testimony on behalf of the Anti-Discrimination Act before the Alaska Territorial Senate in 1945. A

few states had statutes that addressed discrimination but nothing like Alaska's bill. It took great effort by many people to make this history, but none were more dedicated than Roy and Elizabeth Peratrovich. **57 minutes**

[Viewer Discussion Guide](#)

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(Includes Public Performance Rights)

Other Recognition Days:

Presidents Day, Feb. 20

International Mother Language Day, Feb. 21

Injunuity



Treat your students to a combination of animation, music and real voices collected from interviews with Native Americans across the country. *Injunuity* creates a distinct view of modern America from a uniquely contemporary Native American perspective. Nine short films address language preservation, sacred site degradation, consumerism and the environment.

30 minutes

[Educational Guide](#)

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Rising Voices



How important is it to preserve a language? For the Lakota people it's critical. *Rising Voices* tells the story about the imminent peril to the Lakota language, braiding together the struggles of Lakota to learn their tribal language today, the historical attempt to annihilate the language, the rise of immersion language schools, and the participation of outsiders in the rescue of the Lakota language. **57 minutes**

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Did You Know?

America's first Native doctor was from Nebraska?

Medicine Woman

Susan La Flesche Picotte studied medicine at a time when few women dared. She graduated first in her class and returned home to serve as doctor to her Omaha tribe. It was a heartbreaking and violent time, but Dr. Picotte never gave up hope.



[Medicine Woman](#) interweaves the lives of today's Native American women healers--Omaha, Lakota and Navajo--with the story of America's first Native doctor (1865-1915).

The reverberations from Dr. Picotte's shattered world continue today as Native Americans suffer from alarming rates of disease, suicide and mental illness. **57 minutes**

[PBS Learning Media](#)

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Standing Bear's Footsteps



In 1877, the Ponca people were exiled from their Nebraska homeland to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. To honor his dying son's last wish to be buried in his homeland, [Chief Standing Bear](#) set off on a grueling, 600-mile journey home.

Captured en-route, Standing Bear sued a famous U.S. army general for his freedom--choosing to fight injustice not with weapons, but with

words. The Chief stood before the court to prove that an Indian was a person under the law. The story quickly made newspaper headlines--attracting powerful allies, as well as enemies.

[Standing Bear's Footsteps](#) combines interviews, re-creations and present-day scenes to tell a story about human rights--one that resonates powerfully in the present. "I am a man," Chief Standing Bear said at his trial. "The same God made us both." **57 minutes**

[Viewer Discussion Guide](#)

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