



Wampanoag Language Guidance

Help your students show respect to our Native American friends.

No war whoops, please. A simple 'Hello' will win many more smiles than using the Hollywood stereotype 'How' for a greeting or addressing the team as 'squaw' or 'chief.'

Without tepees and feathered headdresses, our wetu construction and our Native American visitors might look different to the way your students expect.

Your visit to Bassetlaw Museum to see the Wampanoag Wetu is an opportunity to discover the unique history and culture of America's Eastern Woodland Nations.

Language Choice:

We know students will not mean to cause offence, but that chatting about Native Americans and their culture will be far outside most of their experience. It would be helpful to talk to them about language choices while they are on site and when they are carrying out their preparation and follow up activities.

- 'Native American' is the most accurate way to talk about the people who lived in America for more than ten thousand years before the pilgrims arrived.
- 'Indian' is **not accurate**, and comes from Western misunderstandings.
- Our guests who built the Wetu were representatives of the 'Wampanoag Nation': who live in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and were living there already in 1620.