

Hello everyone!

Today's' class, Friday October 15, we will have three presentations:

- 1) Vince will discuss indigenous peoples of the Philippines
- 2) Sue Chen will discuss the languages used in Taiwan
- 3) Michele will discuss traditional clothing customs of China



## Indigenous People's Day in America

For those of you who are wondering what the new U.S. national holiday “Indigenous People’s Day” is all about, here is an excerpt from an article in the *USA Today* newspaper:

### What is Indigenous Peoples' Day? Does it replace Columbus Day? Everything you need to know

Scott Gleeson

**USA TODAY**



- “Indigenous People’s Day” has now become a **national** holiday honored by President Joe Biden.
- Indigenous Peoples' Day, which honors Native American history and culture, falls on the calendar **the same day as Columbus Day,**

“For generations, Federal policies systematically sought to assimilate and displace Native people and eradicate Native cultures,” Biden wrote in the Indigenous Peoples’ Day proclamation. “...we recognize Indigenous peoples’ resilience and strength as well as the immeasurable positive impact that they have made on every aspect of American society.”

## Indigenous People's Day in America

The president's proclamation serves as the most significant boost yet to efforts to refocus the federal holiday celebrating Christopher Columbus toward an appreciation of native peoples.

Biden also issued a proclamation of Columbus Day on Monday, Oct. 11, which is established by Congress.

Today, we also acknowledge the painful history of wrongs and atrocities that many European explorers inflicted on Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities," Biden wrote. "It is a measure of our greatness as a Nation that we do not seek to bury these shameful episodes of our past — that we face them honestly, we bring them to the light, and we do all we can to address them."

### **What states and cities celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day?**

- Over a dozen states and more than 130 local governments have chosen to not celebrate Columbus Day altogether or replace it with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Many states celebrate both.
- Eleven U.S. states celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day or a holiday of a similar name via proclamation, while 10 others treat it as an official holiday.
- The 11 states that observe the holiday via proclamation include: Arizona, California, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington DC.
- And the 10 that officially celebrate it include: Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Vermont.
- More than 100 US cities have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day, including Seattle, Los Angeles, Boston, Denver, Phoenix and San Francisco.

## Indigenous People's Day in America

### Is Columbus Day gone? Why is it controversial?

Though some groups argue that Columbus Day, *which is still a federal holiday*, celebrates Italian American heritage, many say the holiday glorifies an experience that led to the genocide of native peoples and paved the way for slavery.

Although Columbus is credited as the "discoverer" of the New World, millions of people already inhabited the Americas. Columbus made four expeditions to the Caribbean and South America over two decades, enslaving and decimating populations and opening the floodgates of European colonization. Many groups have called for the removal of monuments to Columbus, as well as to Confederate generals.



## Indigenous People's Day in America



### Are businesses closed Monday?

- Most banks and post offices in the country are closed on Monday, as *Columbus Day* is still recognized as a **federal** holiday.
- Also closed are any agencies or institutions operated by the government, such as libraries, federal offices, and DMVs.
- While locally owned businesses are up to the owner, supermarkets and most drug stores are open. Same goes for stores like Target, Walmart, Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts.
- National parks are also open.