

# ***NATIVE AMERICAN RHYMES***

	A	B	C	
D	E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R
S	T	U	V	W
	X	Y	Z	

## ***The Native American Alphabet***

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## Native American Alphabet

Long before Europeans came to this hemisphere  
The land was settled by Native Americans free and clear;  
Who had moved across the land without hesitation  
Forming wonderful cultures and great civilizations.  
Each of these groups or tribes had a name  
Which was their identity, their claim to fame.  
A fun way to learn about and understand  
About some of the Native American groups  
who shared this land  
Is to see how some of their names would fit  
With the letters of the alphabet.

## A - Abnaki

Who lived in the northeastern United States  
In houses called wigwams near a river or lake.

## B - Blackfoot

A native American group who received their name  
From drying their moccasins with ash found on the plains.

## C - Comanche

Whose name means "wide trail"  
Which may have also described the land they knew so well.

## D - Dakota

Part of a large native American group called the Sioux  
Who had leaders such as Red Cloud and Sitting Bull,  
Just to name two.

## E - Erie

Whose name means, "place of the cat,"  
And were called "cat people" for reasons such as that.

## F - Flathead

A group who despite their name  
Didn't flatten their heads but the name remained.

## G – Gros Venture

Whose name in French means “big belly”  
Because they couldn’t understand  
The Gros Venture’s sign language of rubbing  
Their stomachs with their hands.

## H – Hopí

Whose name means “peaceful ones”  
Whose descendants still live in the land of the sun.

## I – Iroquois

A group of native American tribes  
Who formed a confederation  
Which was the blueprint that our founding fathers used  
When forming the government of this nation.

## J – Juaneño

Whose name one can clearly see  
Reflects the influence on them by Spanish missionaries.

## K – Kootenai

Who lived along the Canadian border  
Making them the northern-most member  
Of the Plateau people’s order

## L – Luiseño

Another of the “mission people”  
Who accepted the ways of the Spanish  
Who brought with them churches and steeples.

## M - Makah

Who lived on the Pacific Northwest coast  
And were some of the best whale hunters  
That the area could boast.

## N - Navajo

Who were named "people of the big fields"  
By the Spanish who saw the vast amounts  
Of corn the Navajo fields did yield.

## O - Ottawa

Whose name means to trade  
Which is how they gained fame  
With every transaction they made.

## P - Pima

Whose name comes from the phrase "I don't know"  
Which may have been their response to  
Spanish explorers asking for directions to go.

## Q - Quapaw

Whose name means "people downstream"  
Most probably because they lived  
Where the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers team.

## R - Rock Creek

Who lived in the Great Basin area of this country  
An area known for its contrast of harshness and beauty.

## S - Seminoles

Whose name means "runaway"  
Probably because they befriended  
Slaves who came to their villages to stay.

## T - Tlingit

Who were part of the native American groups  
Who lived on the coast of the Pacific Northwest,  
That had the custom of having elaborate parties  
Where the host gave presents to his guests.

## U - Ute

Who were a nomadic native American tribe  
Living in the Great Basin area  
Where few others could survive.

## V

There are no native American tribes or groups  
That begin with this letter.  
So let's go on to the letter "W"  
Where I'm sure that we'll do better.

## W – Wampanoag

Who befriended the Pilgrims  
Extending a helping hand,  
But would later become their enemies  
As they took more and more of their land.

## X

There's no native American group that begins with "X"  
Which really seems a shame  
Because any group starting with this letter  
Would have an excellent name.

## Y – Yazoo

A native American group that has an impressive claim  
By having a county, city and river  
In Mississippi bearing its name.

## Z – Zuni

Who lived in adobe villages  
That shown like gold in the desert sun,  
Inspiring Spanish explorers to believe them  
Filled with gold, each and every one.