

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

(Re)Learning Moment

Indigenous Peoples' Day

During a 1977 international conference, discussions began on a counter-celebration to Columbus Day. Known as Indigenous Peoples' Day, the holiday honors Native and Indigenous Peoples of the land now known as North and South America on the second Monday of October. South Dakota became the first state to recognize this day in 1989. However, the movement in the United States began to gain popularity in California in 1992. Protestors countered the narrative from the Quincentennial Jubilee (San Francisco Bay Area), explaining the effects of Columbus' "discovery" of inhabited lands, colonization, and genocide of Indigenous populations. This same coalition organized to convince the Berkeley, CA city council to symbolically rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day in 1992. Now, at least thirteen (13) states and various cities celebrate this holiday instead of Columbus Day.

(Re)Learn About Indigenous Peoples' Day

- Columbus in America a film challenging the traditional representations of Christopher Columbus produced by Paul Puglisi (2017)
- Indigenous Peoples' Day: Transformative Teaching virtual event hosted by the National Museum of the American Indian on October 10, 2022
- Native American Activism: 1960s to Present educational profile through the Zinn Education Project by Lauren Cooper (2016)
- The Continuing Need for a Day of Indigenous Peoples editorial article by the Lancet Global Health (2021)

Celebrate by Learning

Below, you will find information on the two Indigenous tribes native to the land where the University of Tennessee, Knoxville now resides using the **Native Land Digital** map.

1 Tsalaguwetiyi (Cherokee, East)

2 S'atsoyaha (Yuchi)