

Alice Deal Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Newsletter

Native American Heritage Month

Spotlight: Debra Haaland, Secretary of the Interior



Debra Haaland is the Secretary of the Interior and the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. Secretary Haaland is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna, a reservation of about 500,000 people, situated 45 miles from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Secretary Haaland has a Bachelor's degree in English and a law degree

from the University of New Mexico. Before her appointment as Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Haaland represented New Mexico's 1st Congressional District, in the U.S. Congress, focusing on environmental justice and climate change, missing and murdered indigenous women, and championing policies that helped families.



The Washington D.C. area was home to the Anacostans, Pamunkeys, and Piscataways. Presently, about 4,100 Native Americans live in Washington, D.C. Find the ancestral lands of many other tribes across the country through Native Land Digital.

Around the District

The National Museum of the American Indian is offering special guided gallery tours, shows featuring tribal songs and dances, an art market, and virtual events.

DC Public Libraries have book readings and events featuring Native American history.



Image from [National Museum of the American Indian](#)

Reading Recommendations



By Christine Day - Ages: 8 -12

Wesley struggles to fit into her family's Upper Skagit tribe and with expressing her indigenous roots. Her family's support helps her find her place.



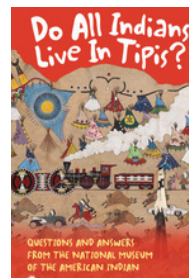
By David A Robertson - Ages: 10+

This first book of the Misewa Saga features Morgan and Eli, foster kids taken from their indigenous communities. A secret portal to a magical place gives them a sense of belonging.



By Cynthia L. Smith - Ages: 8-12

This award-winning collection of poems and short stories showcase the joy, resilience, and strength of Native American communities.



By The National Museum of the American Indian - Ages: 10+

The experts at the National Museum of the American Indian dispel myths, celebrate Native American societies and culture, and share historical facts.

