

## Fourth-Grade Native American Day

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*Hubbard Elementary School  
Forsyth, Georgia*

**N**ative American Day excited and intrigued fourth graders at Hubbard Elementary School. Jim Sawgrass, a Florida native and member of the Muskogee Creek Indian Tribe, set up a creek encampment behind the school, allowing students to see the Indian ways of life starting from when early Indians came across the land bridge and ending with Europeans starting to colonize North America. Sawgrass talked about the different languages and housing used by various tribes. He also demonstrated different Indian hunting weapons, from the early clovis point spear through the musket. Students had the chance to participate in sand painting, poetry, and Indian writing. Students and volunteers also had the chance to sample different Native American foods.

This event would not have been possible without the aid and support of parent volunteers and community members. Parents guided students through the exhibits and provided support to the teachers throughout the day. The Army National Guard set up tents for the audience. Local stores donated food, grocery bags, and art materials for the event. Teachers linked Native American Day to their class units on Indians of North America. After the event, one class shared models of the Native American shelters they created. Another class wrote short articles about their experience.

The local newspaper featured Fourth-Grade Native American Day three times. Students raved about Jim Sawgrass and all of the fascinating information and skills they learned. “Mr. Sawgrass showed us Indian writing, a math activity, and we did pottery,” exclaimed

one student. Another student recognized parent participation, as well: “My mom helped at the food-tasting center. We tasted beef jerky deer meat, dried fruit, corn muffins, and sunflower seeds. I’m glad that I met Mr. Sawgrass. It was a blast.” This event was such a success that third graders at Hubbard Elementary School are already asking when their Native American Day will be next year.

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