

# ARTSTOR

## ARTSTOR RESOURCES IN NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

The ARTstor Digital Library is a visual resource of value to scholars, teachers, and students across the arts, humanities, social sciences, and beyond. This handout is part of a growing series designed to highlight ARTstor's relevance to a variety of fields of study.

### ARTSTOR COLLECTIONS RELEVANT TO NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES



Several ARTstor collections will be of interest to scholars, teachers, and students in the field of Native American Studies. The Native American Art and Culture collection from the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution is an unequalled source of images relevant to the study of Native American cultures. It includes more than 10,000 historic photographs ranging from studio portraits of tribal delegations summoned to Congress in the late 19th century to tribal and ceremonial scenes captured by the Bureau of American Ethnology. There are also nearly 2,000 Plains Indian "ledger drawings," mostly produced in the mid- to late-19th century. These drawings were executed on the pages of ruled ledger books that had been acquired through trade, a continuation of a long tradition of painting on buffalo hides. Also noteworthy is the Carnegie Arts of the United States Collection, a digitized version of a canonic body of images that has been widely used in slide form by instructors in the fields of American Art and Architectural History. In addition to canonical works, there is a representative collection of Native American Arts and Artifacts.

ARTstor's encyclopedic Image Gallery is rich in images related to Native American art and culture. The collection of art, archeology, and architecture from the Canyonlights World Art Image Bank features original photography by Susan Silberberg-Pierce that documents Prehistoric and Native American sites in the American Southwest, especially New Mexico. The Image Gallery also contains selections from the collections of museums with significant holdings in Native American art and artifacts, such as the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Library of Congress has contributed historical photographs documenting the history of Native Americans in the United States, including a set of images previously distributed with the 1997 publication *Eyes of the Nation: A Visual History of the United States*. This particular collection provides a pictorial overview of American history, whether contemporary photographs of Native Americans or depictions of indigenous peoples and their customs, as rendered by European settlers in paintings, prints, posters, manuscripts, cartoons, etc.

## HELPFUL SEARCH TIPS

Keyword searches are likely to be most successful. Truncating your search term (e.g. india\* or native america\*) in order to retrieve terms with variant endings will enlarge your search results. For more precise searches, you can search for phrases within quotation marks (“..”), or use the Advanced Search feature to limit your searches by date or geographic region.

- ❖ A search for “tomahawk” yields over 200 results
- ❖ Searching for “medicine man” produces over 100 images
- ❖ “kiowa” or “cheyenne” will both return more than 1000 images each

## HELPFUL BROWSING CATEGORIES

ARTstor’s collections may be browsed in a number of ways. For instance, the Native American Art and Culture collection is helpfully organized by tribal group, from Absaroke to Zuñi. Other collections may be browsed by subject. Within the ARTstor Slide Gallery, there is a browsing category for “Folk Art and Art of Indigenous Peoples,” while in the Carnegie Arts of the United States collection, there is a browsing category for “Native American Arts and Artifacts.” You may also browse across all of ARTstor’s collections by geography or object classification, so that those specializing in specific areas within Native American Studies may access images relevant to their primary interests. For example, you can browse ARTstor for “Photographs” and then expand that browsing category to narrow the set down to “United States.” Once you have expanded the browsing category, you may search within the displayed thumbnails to further refine your search set – e.g. searching for “blackfoot” within “Photographs – United States” yields 220 images out of a much larger set. Alternatively, you can start by browsing geographically first, such as selecting “Canada” from a controlled list of countries, and then choosing the category for “Decorative Arts, Utilitarian Objects and Interior Design” to view examples of artifacts produced by First Nations peoples.

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### Image Credits:

- 1) Chin-cha-pee, Fire Bug That Creeps, Wife of Pigeon’s Egg Head, 1832 | George Catlin, American | Smithsonian American Art Museum
- 2) Europeans and Native Americans meet, 1634 | Theodor de Bry | Eyes of the Nation
- 3) Effigy jar (dog), 1200-1600 | Mound Builder, Tennessee | Peabody Museum, Harvard University