

1. Sacred Relatives

Native people practice a deep interconnectedness with the land, the resources, the water, all living things and all human beings. Land stewardship, respect for all 2 legged, 4 legged, winged, crawlers and swimmers and a strong belief in the sacredness of all human beings are key elements of our spirituality.

Extended Description

The tribes in North Dakota have creation stories telling how we came into being on earth. No tribe disagrees with or makes fun of another tribal Creation story; the stories connect to one another. We practice our ceremonies, medicines, and plants to keep us whole and connected to the Great Mystery of life. We teach our youth the Natural Laws of the Creator for their well-being (Elder JT ShiningOne Side).

One of the beliefs that we, as Native people, share is the knowledge that every living thing has a spirit. Sometimes described as “respect”, it is much more than that. It is our belief. The Ojibwa (Chippewa) creation story says, “The Creator breathed life into all that He created.” We are taught that each blade of grass, etc. has this spirit. Gregory Cajete, in his book “Native Science” uses this same analogy when he explains the difference between Native science and Western science. It is the reason we put tobacco down before we take a medicine, or a plant (Elder Carol Davis).



Arikara man, wearing a bearskin, 1908.

