4. Sense of Humor

Native people have a rich history of shared sense of humor that includes teaching stories involving Iktomi, Maymaygwisi and Nanabozhoo. These stories and this unique sense of humor continue to support our resiliency and cohesiveness.



Dakota Elder Demus McDonald usually includes humor when he tells about his difficult boarding school experiences.

Extended Description

As Native people we have seven sacred medicines, tobacco, cedar, sage, sweet grass, water, laughter, and land to keep one in balance in life. Laughter is a good medicine that brings your spirit up. The stories through humor teach lessons about life. We love playing humorous jokes on each other (Elder JT ShiningOne Side).



Elementary school class of Indian students with botanical specimens at United States Indian School, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.