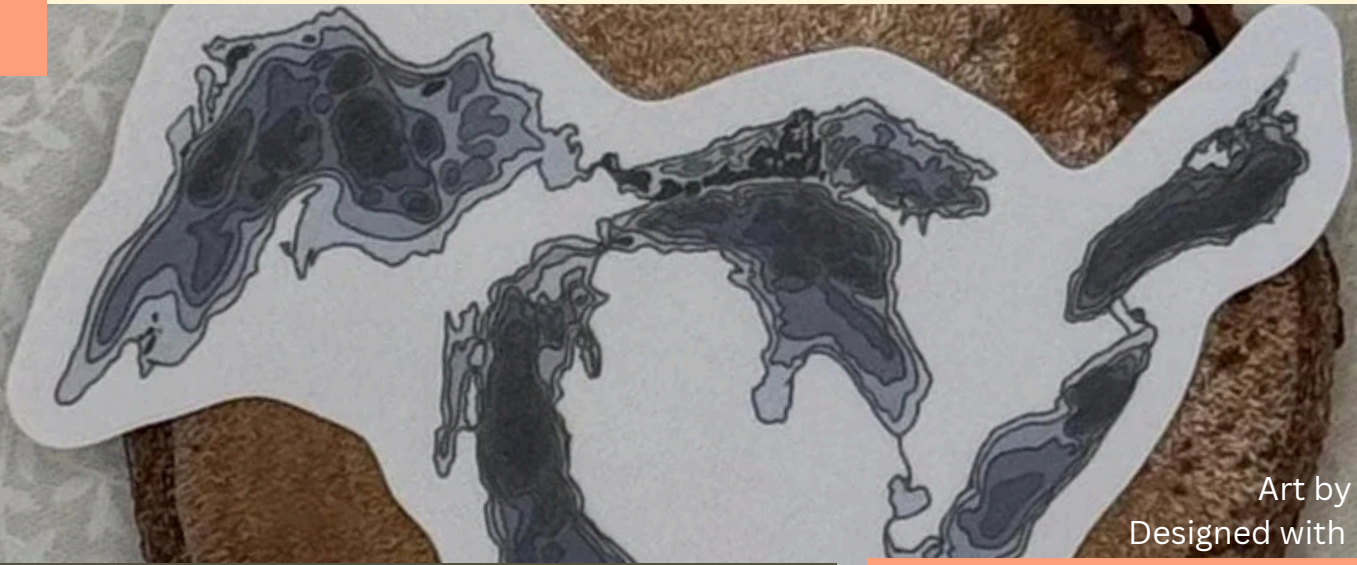


October 2025

# THE TACKLE BOX



Art by  
Designed with Hartman

## Celebrating Michigan Tribes on Indigenous Peoples' Day

Long before the first European traders and settlers arrived in the Great Lakes basin, Indigenous communities thrived, shaping the region through their hunting, fishing, gathering, agriculture, and land management practices. The enduring legacy of these cultures is evident in many of our state's place names. This includes Michigan itself, which is derived from the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe word *mishigami/michigama*, meaning "great lake" or "large water," and referring to Lake Michigan. Within Michigan, there are 32 counties, 72 townships, more than 100 communities, and hundreds of physical features with names of Native American origin. Today, Michigan is home to 12 federally recognized tribes, which are shown on the map at the top of the second page.

Indigenous Peoples' Day provides an opportunity not only to honor the enduring cultures, history, and sovereignty of tribes in Michigan, but also of all

## OCTOBER AWARENESS MONTH & DAYS

- [Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)
- [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)
- [Down Syndrome Awareness Month](#)
- [LGBTQ+ History Month](#)
- [Polish American Heritage Month](#)
- [Filipino American History Month](#)
- Oct 2 - [International Day of Nonviolence](#)
- Oct 10 - [World Mental Health Day](#)
- Oct 6-11 - [National Coming Out Day \(LGBTQ+\)](#)
- Oct 14 - [National Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
- Oct 19 - [Spirit Day \(LGBTQ+ anti-bullying\)](#)
- Oct 19 - [International Pronouns Day](#)
- Oct 22 - [International Stuttering Awareness Day](#)



The Michigan map displays counties grouped by color into regions, indicating locations of federally recognized tribes with numbered points.

Indigenous peoples within the United States. October 13th offers a moment to reflect on and acknowledge the impact of colonization on the peoples who truly first discovered America. It is important to recognize and uphold each tribe's right to sovereignty, as doing so empowers Indigenous communities and supports treaty obligations.

Educating yourself about the history and culture of the tribes that call Michigan home is an excellent way to celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day. To support this, we have provided some resources below, but we encourage you to explore the history of Indigenous peoples on your own as well.

## Resources

### Tribal Websites

- [Bay Mills Indian Community](#)
- [Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians](#)
- [Hannahville Indian Community](#)
- [Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians](#)
- [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](#)
- [Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians](#)
- [Little River Bay Band of Ottawa Indians](#)
- [Little Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa Indians](#)
- [Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians](#)
- [Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe](#)
- [Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa](#)
- [Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi Indians \(Gun Lake Tribe\)](#)

### Recommended Books

- [Rethinking Michigan Indian History](#)
- [Michigan Native Peoples](#)
- [Michigan Native Americans](#)
- [Rites of Conquest: Michigan's Native Americans](#)
- [Aube Na Bing](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Michigan Indians](#)
- [The Crooked Tree: Indian Legends of Northern Michigan](#)
- [Indian Names in Michigan](#)
- [Ottawa and Chippewa Indians of Michigan](#)
- [A Study of Some Michigan Indians](#)

### Michigan Events - October 13<sup>th</sup>

- [Macomb Community College: Indigenous Peoples' Day 2025: Creative Learning Experience](#)
- [Mid Michigan College: Indigenous Peoples Day](#)
- [Leland Cultural Campus: Indigenous People's Day](#)
- [The Dennon Museum: Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Day Powwow: Hart Plaza Detroit](#)

# ***Columbus Day as a Reminder:***

## *A Forgotten Story of Racism*

Like plants from the allium genus, history has many layers, and as you begin to peel them back it can be an eye-watering experience that exposes unexpected dirt. On the surface, Columbus Day appears to be a simple celebration of patriotism and the “discovery” of America. In reality, the holiday springs from tragedy, racism, and political calculation.

During the late 1800s, Italians faced serious race-based discrimination, fueled by anti-immigrant misinformation and stereotypes. This hatred culminated in the brutal lynching of eleven Italian immigrants in New Orleans on March 14, 1891—the largest mass lynching in the United States. These falsely accused men were due to be released after being found innocent of murdering the chief of police by a jury of their peers. Instead, they were ripped from jail by an anti-immigrant mob, brutally beaten, shot, and lynched. We ask that you take a moment to remember their names: Antonio Bagnetto, James Caruso, Loreto Comitis, Rocco Geraci, Joseph Macheca, Antonio Marchesi, Pietro Monasterio, Emmanuele Polizzi, Frank Romero, Antonio Scaffidi, and Charles Traina.

President Benjamin Harrison was deeply troubled by the incident and by the racism faced by Italian immigrants, which was openly disseminated in mainstream news sources of the time. Harrison sought to shift public sentiment toward Italian immigrants and show the world a different side of the United States. He was looking for a prominent Italian figure to honor, and it just so happened that 1892 marked the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s landing in the West Indies—a fortuitous fluke. Harrison intended the celebration to be a one-time event, centered around the unveiling of a statue of Columbus gifted by the Italian government in Central Park South, New York. The popularity of the event led to its continuation as an annual observance, and in 1968 President Lyndon Johnson signed it into law as a federal holiday.

Time and shifting American sentiment have obscured the fact that Columbus Day was originally intended to fight racism and promote Italian pride. Today, it has become a hotly contested topic centered around Indigenous rights and the devastating effects of colonialism. For many Native Americans, Columbus Day symbolizes genocide, dispossession, and cultural repression, as well as centuries of poverty, marginalization, and discrimination. This article is not intended to argue for the continued celebration of Columbus Day, but rather to shed light on its historical context.

Although our country is relatively young compared to others, we seem to struggle with remembering and



A historic photograph of the Columbus Monument in New York City, showing Columbus atop a decorated column and base.

learning from our history. Rather than being a false celebration of the “discovery” of the Americas, Columbus Day should stand as a reminder of how dangerous stereotypes and misinformation about immigrants can be. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, anti-immigrant discrimination—supported and spread by mainstream news sources—was allowed to run rampant, leading to acts of violence including the lynching of more than forty Italians. Let us learn from these dark chapters of United States history and ensure that misinformation about immigrants is never again allowed to propagate and threaten the livelihoods and lives of any group of people.

### Resources:

The material for this piece was sources for the article below, please refer to them for more detail.

- [The Truth about Columbus Day and Immigrant Discrimination | The Friends of Italian Americans](#)
- [The Lynching That Gave Us Columbus Day | Medium](#)
- [Columbus Day Wrongfully Created in Aftermath of 1891 Sicilian Lynching | The Oberlin Review](#)
- [The Innocent 11 and the Creation of Columbus Day | Italian Sons and Daughters of America](#)



## RECOMMENDED READ FOR LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

In honor of LGBTQ+ History Month, we would like to recommend *A Queer History of the United States* by Michael Bronski. As part of Beacon Press's ReVisioning History series, this book provides insight into how events and figures from the LGBTQ+ community have shaped American history—a narrative often overlooked in traditional sources. Spanning from the late 1400s to the 1990s, this work offers a rigorous yet engaging exploration of LGBTQ+ history in the United States, including stories about transgender individuals, Native Americans, and queer people of color.

To mark LGBTQ+ History Month, this book serves as a reminder that the contributions of LGBTQ+ people are woven into the fabric of our nation's past. Reading and reflecting on these stories not only honors their legacy but also strengthens our commitment to building a more inclusive future. Please find *A Queer History of the United States* on [Beacon Presses website](#).

### A QUEER HISTORY of the UNITED STATES

MICHAEL BRONSKI



"Bronski does a stunning job of sweeping across five hundred years and weaving 'queer' through the history of this nation. Always insightful, and provocative."

—John D'Emilio, author of *Lost Prophet*

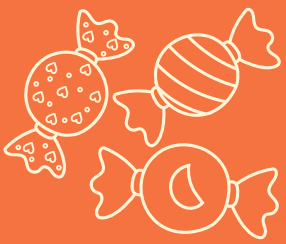
# Featured Artist: Jordan Hartman



Dr. Jordan Hartman runs the project Designed with Hartman, which was born out of a desire to merge her scientific background with her creative endeavors. Her art celebrates the beauty of science, nature, and art in our everyday lives and draws on her background in conservation genetics. She has designed a variety of stickers, mugs, pins, coloring books, and more. You can explore more of her art at [designedwithhartman.com](https://designedwithhartman.com), or at Instagram and Facebook at Designed With Hartman.



# ALLY CORNER: INCLUSIVE TRICKS FOR YOUR TREATS



As your Halloween preparations begin, remember that some trick or treaters may have dietary restrictions. In order to ensure a scary good time for all ghouls and goblins, consider adding these options to your candy bowl!

## VEGAN, GLUTEN FREE, & NUT FREE:



## SUGAR FREE:



Remember to always check food labels for the list of ingredients and look for certified gluten free, vegan, nut free, and sugar free seals on the packaging.



Know you are part of a caring community and never alone. The DEIJB Committee is working to foster an inclusive environment, ensuring MI AFS is welcoming to all. Get involved by reaching out to share resources or connect. Your voice matters! Contact us at [mifishcastafs@gmail.com](mailto:mifishcastafs@gmail.com) or submit items anonymously.

Warm Wishes -

Dana Castle (she/her), Lydia Doerr (she/her), Tracy Galarowicz (she/her), Kynzie House (she/her), Maggie Haite (they/them), Taylor Skiles (she/her), Kathleen Quebedeaux (she/her)