The inquisitive reader is invited and encouraged to conduct their own additional research, by following individual curiosity and interests. Our annotated list of films and a few other web sites is a good starting point for those interested in a deeper understanding of the historical events that shaped the Wind River Indian Reservation as we know it today and are related to the experiences of native people. We’ve included summary information taken directly from the internet along with links to learn more about the materials available.

**Documentary Film - Chiefs**

Summary provided by imdb.com. Released in 2002 the documentary film Chiefs about the on and off-court struggles of Native American basketball players at Wyoming Indian High School, received the Jury Award at the Tribeca Film Festival that same year. Wyoming native Daniel Junge, filmed the entire documentary himself and has remarked on how important it was for him to receive a Wyoming Humanities grant in support of the project as a young filmmaker just starting out. The websites listed below provide some background on the film and additional information on one of the earliest films from Wyoming’s now academy award winning director.

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chiefs/film.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chiefs/qanda.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chiefs/more.html>

**Documentary Film – Mankiller**

Summary provided by imdb.com The Documentary Film Celebrating the Life of Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to be elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. This is the story of an American hero. One who stands tall amongst the likes of Robert Kennedy, Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr. Someone who humbly defied the odds and overcame insurmountable obstacles to fight injustice and gave a voice to the voiceless. And yet few people know her name. This is the story of an American legend, Wilma Mankiller, who overcame rampant sexism and personal challenges to emerge as the Cherokee Nation’s first woman Principal Chief in 1985. MANKILLER examines the legacy of the formidable Wilma Mankiller and reunites the documentary team of Gale Anne Hurd and Valerie Red-Horse Mohl for their third and most powerful film.

http://www.mankillerdoc.com/

<http://www.mankillerdoc.com/about-the-project>

**Documentary Film – Trudell**

Summary provided by imdb.com. Filmmaker Heather Rae paints an unforgettable portrait of Native American poet and activist John Trudell, a man known as much for his spoken-word performances as he is for his politics.

**Documentary Film - Reel Injun**

Summary provided imdb.com. A documentary about the evolution of the depiction of First Nations people in film, from the silent era to today. Featuring clips from hundreds of films, candid interviews with famous Native and non-Native directors, writers and actors, Reel Injun traces how the image of First Nations people in cinema have influenced the understanding and misunderstanding of their culture and history. Written by N. Diamond

**Film - Neither Wolf Nor Dog**

Summary provided by Steven Lewis Simpson. Perhaps the most successful non-Hollywood Native American film in many years, Neither Wolf Nor Dog, is based on the award-winning novel by author Kent Nerburn and stars Lakota elder Dave Bald Eagle, who passed away not long ago, aged 97. The film played an incredible 96 theatres between the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Idaho before September 2018 and expanded into Wyoming theaters starting with Jackson Hole September 12th. The filmmaker is reaching out to colleges to see if it is of interest for a screening for Native American Heritage month in November at college events, or campus screenings at another time.

The film follows a Lakota elder who sucks a white author into a road trip through the Dakotas to open the author's eyes to the elder's experience and perspective on the world.

The film, like the novel, has been used a fair bit by schools, universities and other cultural groups as it is not just a deeply moving, funny and thought-provoking film, but it takes the audience deep into an elder's reality. Dave Bald Eagle's incredible performance alone gives the film a great cultural weight. During the film's climax at Wounded Knee, the script was abandoned and Dave improvised the whole sequence as his family was closer to the massacre of 1890 than even the character he was playing. At the end of filming the scene he told his co-star "I've been holding that in for 95-years." Christopher Sweeney, Richard Ray Whitman, Roseanne Supernault, Tatanka Means and Zahn McClarnon make up the main cast.

In addition to being in the midst of the biggest theatrical release of any non-Hollywood US Native film in years it has also had a longer theatrical run than any film released in the US in the last decade.

While we are in cinemas, public performance licenses can be arranged for these special showings. But if you'd also be interested in an Educational License when they are available soon or Library Licenses a bit further down the line, then please let us know so we can contact you then.

The theatrical trailer can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/199758739>

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**Film – Smoke Signals**

Summary taken from Roger Ebert. Young Indian man Thomas is a nerd in his reservation, wearing oversize glasses and telling everyone stories no-one wants to hear. His parents died in a fire in 1976, and Thomas was saved by Arnold. Arnold soon left his family (and his tough son Victor), and Victor hasn't seen his father for 10 years. When Victor hears Arnold has died, Thomas offers him funding for the trip to get Arnold's remains, but only if Thomas can also go with him. Thomas and Victor hit the road.

"It's a good day to be indigenous!'' the reservation radio deejay tells his American Indian listeners as "Smoke Signals'' opens. We cut to the station's traffic reporter, who scrutinizes an intersection that rarely seems to be used. "A big truck just went by,'' he announces. Later in the film, we will hear several choruses of a song about John Wayne's false teeth.

"Smoke Signals'' comes billed as the first feature written, directed, co-produced and acted by American Indians. It hardly seems necessary to even announce that: The film is so relaxed about its characters, so much at home in their world, that we sense it's an inside job. Most films about Native Americans have had points to make and scores to settle, like all those earnest 1950s white films about blacks. Blaxploitation broke the ice and liberated unrehearsed black voices, and now here are two young Indians who speak freshly, humorously and for themselves.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/smoke-signals-1998>P

**Film – Pow Wow Highway**

Anyone who can name his 1964 Buick "Protector" and talk to it like a pony has a philosophy we can learn from. Philbert Bono is the name of the philosopher. He is a member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe, and near the beginning of "Powwow Highway" he and a friend, Buddy Red Bow, set out to ride Protector from Lame Deer, Mont., to Sante Fe, N. M. They go by way of the Dakotas, because to Bono the best way to get to a place is not always the straightest way.

"Powwow Highway" is the story of their journey, and in one sense it's a road movie and a buddy movie, but in another sense it's a meditation on the way American Indians can understand the land in terms of space, not of time. Philbert never states it in so many words, but it's clear he doesn't think of a trip to Santa Fe in terms of hours or miles, but in terms of the places he must visit between here and there to make it into a journey and not simply the physical relocation of his body.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/powwow-highway-1989>

**Film – Thunderheart**

In “Thunderheart,” Val Kilmer plays agent Ray Levoi, who is at first undemonstrative and even rigid in his dealings with the locals. He's like one of those cops who is blind to the human situation because he's preoccupied with running the rule book through his mind. He's assigned to the case on the reservation on the unconvincing grounds that he is one-fourth Indian. His first contact is the Native American lawman, played by Graham Greene Oscar-nominated last year for his work in ("Dances with Wolves"). Soon he encounters agent Frank Coutelle, played by Sam Shepard as a laconic cynic. And not long after he meets a schoolteacher (Sheila Tousey) who provides a breath of romantic interest - although the movie has the originality to let it be a subtle breath, and not center the whole story on it.

The movie was directed by Michael Apted and written by John Rusco, who base their story on actual events in the Dakota reservations in the early 1970s when a militant group named American Indian Movement defied the FBI. This fictionalized version of the encounter involves a conspiracy to steal lands from the Indians, and the mechanics of the murder mystery and investigation are well worked out and involving.

But that wasn't what interested me the most. What's most absorbing thing about “Thunderheart” is its sense of place and time and the attention to the people themselves - not just what they do, and how that pushes things along.

<https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/thunderheart-1992>

**Film - Wind River**

Summary from imdb.com. East of Boulder Flats, deep into the vast and unforgiving white territory of the Wind River Indian Reservation, the seasoned game tracker, Cory Lambert, discovers the frozen body of the young Native American, Natalie. As this is a federal crime, the F.B.I. dispatches the inexperienced but courageous agent Jane Banner to lead the investigation, however, the unprepared outsider will soon team up with Cory to unravel the mystery of Natalie's murder. Before long, Cory will inevitably have to face his own past, while at the same time, both he and Jane are thirsting to see justice done. In the end, will this be a fruitful alliance?

**Boarding Schools**

Attempts by non-natives to assimilate Native American people into a perceived “Christian” or “American” way of life began as early as the 1860s. There are many websites describing the various detrimental impacts for native people. The one below includes information and lesson plans.

<http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=airc_hist_boardingschools>

A grant from the National Archives allowed the Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center to develop a teaching kit for use in schools, libraries, and other educational institutions. PDFs available for download include color facsimile reproductions of photographs, newspapers, and booklets dating from the years of the school’s operation, 1879 to 1918. The contents of teaching kits complement lesson plans and other available materials.

<http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/news/carlisle-indian-school-teaching-kits-available>

**Teaching Kits**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hykgav0mb5jty4m/AAD0ta6jwG0K9lj0dADKGmkca?dl=0>

**Lesson Plans**

<http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/teaching>

**Bozeman Trail Interactive Game**

Victoria Sanders of Jackson Wyoming has developed an interactive, multi-disciplinary Bozeman Trail game being tested in schools across Wyoming during the 2018-2019 school year.

<https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/news/schools/article_0d3e6102-9221-5ddc-8c53-7243b210f247.html>

National Museum of the American Indian

Nation to Nation: Treaties between the United States and American Indian Nations

<https://americanindian.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/?id=934>

Americans

<https://americanindian.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/item/?id=957>

<https://americanindian.si.edu/americans/>

The Removal Act

<https://americanindian.si.edu/americans/#stories/the-removal-act>