Native Americans in Hollywood

Script/Facilitation Support

Materials Needed:

- Student Handouts: Representation in Hollywood
- Slides: Representation in Hollywood.pptx
- Lesson Slides Projected in slideshow mode. Note: slides are animated to slowly provide written text - they will appear on click.

Slide #	Teacher Notes	Teacher Script
Slide 1	Introduction Slide	
Slide 2	Objectives: What students will do	Read Slide
Slide 3	Essential Questions	Read Slide
Slide 4-5	Vocabulary Words	As you read each definition, ask students to respond to corresponding question on Part 1 of the Worksheet to ensure students understand the vocabulary term.
Slide 6	Read the question on Slide 5 to get students excited about talking about films and Hollywood.	Good Morning/Afternoon Class! We have a subject that most people love talking about on our agenda today. Movies! Who doesn't love a good movie? Hollywood actors and movie stars make a ton of money and that's because folks love this pastime. Why do you think people love watching movies? I'll give you a second to think of a few reasons why people love watching movies. (Pause 30 seconds) Once you have a few ideas in your head, go ahead and turn to your desk partner and share your thoughts. Be ready to share your answers with the class. I'll give you a few minutes to chat. (Pause for 2 minutes) Ok, let's get a few volunteers to share why they or their partner loves watching movies. (Call on 3-4 students) Let's take a moment to write down your responses in the Worksheet. You can use

		your original responses or use other students' ideas. (Pause so students can write down 4 answers in the worksheet.)
Slide 7 Sample Answers	Sample Answers	Read the list on Slide 7 Ask students to raise their hand after each bullet if the written reason is similar to their responses.
Slide 8 and 9		Read slide 8, and before advancing to slide 9 ask students to consider revisiting the reasons for movie watching discussed in the previous slide with Reinforcement of Stereotypes,Cultural Erasure, and Influence on Public Opinion in mind. Read slide 9.
Slide 10	Refer back to Essential Question	Before we move forward, let's go back and take a look at our Essential Question for this lesson. How did colonial propaganda shape early portrayals of Native Americans, and how do these misrepresentations persist in Hollywood films today?
Slides 10-16	Students will be introduced to early US political propaganda Student Worksheet Part 3	Read each slide. Spend time looking for details in each image that reinforce stereotypes, depict inferiority, and how that influences public opinion. Using art integrated strategies, such as Notice, Wonder, Feel (what do you notice? What do you wonder? What emotions might you feel?) or Visual Thinking Strategies (What is going on in this picture? What do you see that makes you say that? What else can we find?) are helpful to create a dialogue where students can share their opinions and wonderings.
Slides 17-26	Students will be introduced to Hollywood Film Eras. Students will watch short clips from movies that portray Native Americans in a negative manner. *NOTE: Licensing to use videos for curriculum	Read slides for each Era ● Silent Film Era (1900s–1920s): Stereotypes and False Representation ● Cartoons: Racist Propaganda targeting children ● Golden Age of Hollywood (1930s–1950s): Villainization and Dehumanization

	development was not an option, so you will need to cut and paste specific search phrases to access the video clips to analyze. Student worksheet part 3. You may need permission slips to watch full length movie (slide 25)	● Revisionist Westerns (1960s–1970s): Narratives about Oppressed Peoples ● Native People as People (1990s): Native Stories about White People ● 1990s–2000s: Emergence of Native Filmmakers ● 2010s–Present: Ongoing Struggles and Limited Visibility We will watch a series of clips that portray Native Americans throughout time. Pay close attention to what the Natives sound like, look like, etc. Read each slide and provide sufficient time for students to discuss the harm that is depicted in each clip.
Slide 20	Example of discussion for introducing Native people in Cartoons	Before viewing clips, ask students to recall any animated films/shows that have Native American characters. Examples may include: Molly of Denali Spirit Rangers The Casagrandes Avatar: the Last Airbender BraveStarr Pocahontas Brother Bear Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron King of the Hill How were Native people depicted in the shows they are seen? These clips are from early animations. Provide students time to discuss what they seen after each clip and how these cartoons “normalize” racism for children.
Slides 21-22	Example of discussion after watching The Searchers Clips	We will watch a few clips from 1956 Western movie called The Searchers. Keep in mind that Westerns or Cowboy and Indian movies were really popular during this time in Hollywood. I think you

		can guess who was the “good guy” and who was the “bad guy”. While you’re watching this, I really want you to think about Hollywood’s political agenda. Why are they doing this? PS take a good look at the Indian chief! Ok, let’s take a look at the 2 minute clip. (Play clip) Ok, what did you all notice?(Call on students) I noticed the Cowboy’s religious reference as he thanked God for “receiving” the Indians. I definitely noticed that the Indian chief is played by a White man! The white men were cool and collected, while the Indians seemed to be “wild” and easily defeated. 5 white men defeated a large group of Native Americans. Ok, we’re going to take a look at another clip in this movie. Here you’re going to see a white family who moved into Indian territory and are surprised when they are confronted by Indians. The white family is portrayed as soft and respectful, but the Indians are portrayed in a different light. Can you guess how? (Play clip) Ok, what did you notice in this clip? (Call on Students) I noticed that the little girl hid near her grandmother’s grave that says that the grandmother was killed by Comanche Indians. Also, the movie later reveals that the little girl was killed and possibly raped by the Native Americans.

Slide 26 Killer of the Flower Moon Clip	Example - Look at modern day Hollywood films with Native Americans	Ok, well we are fortunate to have a modern day look at how Hollywood portrays Native Americans today. In 2023, Killers of the Flower Moon came out. We're going to watch the Trailer. Pay attention to the differences you see in this clip compared to the last few clips we watched. (PLAY CLIP)
Slides 27-28	Humor as a tool for racism	Ask students to think of a time when they have experienced being teased, or made fun of by someone and the person laughs and says, "I'm just joking" but your feelings were hurt and it wasn't funny. Share a personal experience if you would like. Read these slides and ask students to reflect on how teasing, laughing at people for falling down/making a mistake/accidental embarrassing moments/sexual harassment, or saying rude comments framed as a "joke" is bullying.
Slide 29 Creative Project Short Film or Play		Well, we have had some interesting conversations about Native representation in Hollywood. We also talked about how politics can be intertwined with Hollywood. And how historical stereotypes, reinforced in the media, can still affect the way we see certain groups of people today. We're going to break into groups and work on a creative project. Read slide.