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American Indian Educator visited Florence Elementary - Anthony Redfeather Nava

**Contributed by Kathy Kuhn
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Mr. Nava visited Florence Elementary in February, bringing artifacts, music, history, culture, and stories with him to create an environment of learning.

He taught the students about the meaning of the word tribe which is considered an extended family. Florence has many tribes, basketball tribe, academic tribe, science tribe, reading tribe etc. Think of all the tribes you and your family are involved in - church tribes, girl scout and boy scout tribes, exercise tribe, any organization is a tribe.

He told us about his nation, the Yaqui. His people call themselves "Yoeme" which is the Yaqui word for "person" or "people". The Native American's refer to themselves as a Nation—We the People. One well-known nation that settled in Kentucky was the Shawnee Nation. Not far from Kentucky is the Cherokee Nation located in North Carolina.

Nathan Atkins, a member of the Florence Elementary tribe, helped Mr. Nava. Nathan gathered pretend firewood to cook for the entire assembly. Mr. Nava explained the eating order in a tribe. The elders are honored by eating first to show the tribe's gratitude for years of service. The elders have the greatest knowledge and wisdom and care for and teach the young while the adults hunt. The children eat second because they are the survival of the tribe. Last to eat are the adults, the core group.

The program included a hands-on museum, taking the students back in time to the days of arrowheads and American Bison. The students participated in traditional games, learned a simple native dance, and beat on a variety of drums. Mr. Nava demonstrated the drums, flute, and expressed his love for music. Music is a big part of the native American culture.

The museum and history helped the students and staff relive the life of a Native American, feeling the spirit of their nation.

[« Go back](#)



Nathan Atkins helped Mr. Nava during his presentation.

