

Influential Indigenous People

Research question: How has this person made a difference in their community or the world?

Influential Person: Joy Harjo

What tribe/nation are they from?
Muscogee (Creek) Nation (Kiddle) (Big Ideas)
When did this person live (or are they still living today)?
Born May 9, 1951; Still alive (Kiddle) (Big Ideas)
Key details about their childhood
• Tulsa, Oklahoma (Kiddle) (Big Ideas) • wrote her first poem in eighth grade (Kiddle) • mom, grandma, and aunts inspired creativity (Kiddle) • attended Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico (Kiddle) (Big Ideas)
Key details about their adulthood
• loved to share stories (Big Ideas) • published many books (Big Ideas) • professor at colleges and universities (Kiddle) • first Native American to be named the United States Poet Laureate 2019–2022 (Kiddle) (Big Ideas)

What challenges did they face? How did they overcome those challenges?

- not many stories of Native people
- Native people often stereotyped or erased
- found voice in poetry (Kiddle) (Big Ideas)

What lessons can we learn from their life story?

- creativity connect to culture (Big Ideas)
- remember to celebrate who you are (Big Ideas)
- share your story (Big Ideas)

Additional facts about the person

- "painting but with words" (Big Ideas)
- plays the sax (Big Ideas)
- inspired by nature (Big Ideas)
- activist for Native rights (Kiddle)