



Who Was Red Fox James?

Dear Student,

In this lesson, you will be learning about Red Fox James and his historic contribution to American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. So who was Red Fox James and what is his connection to Montana? In order to help you answer these questions, links to resources such as old newspaper articles and historic photographs are provided.



Red Fox James at White House (1915) Retrieved from the Library of Congress.

Historical Context: November is American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and Montana has a historic connection to this nationwide recognition. According to the U.S. Census Bureau “The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, rode horseback from state to state to get endorsements from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians.”

For more background information and historical context, we have provided suggested websites for research. If you use good investigative skills and ask the right questions, your research may lead to other resources not identified below. To get started, read this article from *The Lancaster New Era*, Thursday December 30, 1915 (Lancaster, PA). Write a short summary highlighting key points using a 3 -2 -1 prompt; three things you learned about Red Fox James, two things you learned about his journey, one question you have about the information presented.

INDIAN PONY, CARRYING RIDER 4,800 MILES TO THE EAST, WINTERING HERE

Brought Red Fox James From the Blackfoot Reservation—Resting Up On Farm Of Jerry Wimer, In Drumore

ON the farm of Jerry Wimer, in Drumore township, a small white Indian pony is now spending the winter and taking a rest after having carried his rider on an overland trip in which they travelled some 4,800 miles. The rider was Red Fox James, a full-blooded Indian of the Blackfoot tribe, who are on a reservation in Montana.

The Indian has a fine education, and is very much interested in the future of his tribe, and his mission to the East is in its interest. When he left his home he first went to California, where he had an interview with the Governor, who gave him letters, and on his horseback trip he had an interview with the Governors of every State through which he passed. Since he came East he has seen a number of others, so that, up to this time, he has had letters from twenty-eight Governors.

At present Red Fox is attending a law school in New York, and a fellow student is Paul Bald Eagle, a member of his tribe, who, it will be remembered, was at Carlisle and was put on the farm of Rev. Geo. Bucher, at Mechanics' Grove, who is one of the extensive farmers of Drumore township. When the young Indian showed an ambition to obtain an education, Rev. Bucher took a very active part in assisting him, and two years ago he graduated at the Drumore High School, taking first honor. Soon after his graduation he took up a course in law, and will soon have finished it. It is the intention of both these young men to return to their own people, where they propose to work for their advancement and benefit. They say that none is better adapted or more likely to be of advantage to their tribe than members of it, who know just what are their needs.

Assignment and Resources

Suggested Assignments: Your teacher may offer various types of assessments to gauge your understanding of this topic, e.g., research paper, poster presentation, participation in an on-line discussion forum, and multimedia presentation formats such as a video or podcast.

Now generate a list of questions based upon themes in the article to help guide your research about Red Fox James. Be sure to use multiple resources and check for authenticity of the source, i.e., who wrote it? What references were cited? When was it published? What did your research reveal? Who was Red Fox James? What was his contribution to American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month? Where did he come from? What was his tribal affiliation? What else did Red Fox James do? What sources did you use?

Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and the [Library of Congress](#). (Note: Many of these historic newspapers contain inaccurate or derogatory language in reference to American Indians. Remember to put things into historic context when discussing information obtained from older sources.)

An advanced search on this site revealed [83 articles](#) from numerous newspapers all across the United States. The search was narrowed by focusing on a selected date range from 1913 – 1934. Take time to review several of these resources and note the specific newspaper the information is from and the publication date. Not all the search results were about Red Fox James, so you will have to take time to read the search results.

Other on-line resources to help you get started: Information about [Red Fox James from Wikipedia](#), and background information from the [U.S. Census Bureau, 2020](#).

If possible, seek out descendants of Red Fox James to learn more about his background and story.

If you have questions about citing and using historical resources, check out this resource from Stanford University Libraries regarding [copyright and fair use](#).