

## Myth~Busting



Many ancient alien conspiracy theorists claim that petroglyphs and pictographs throughout the Americas depict alien visitors witnessed by our indigenous ancestors. Although there are a few Native people who may support or cater to those theories, most indigenous people do not.

Advanced mathematics, astronomy, architecture, and art were developed here, independently from the rest of the world. While humanoid figures depicted in ancient and contemporary Native art may appear otherworldly to western eyes, they are the manifestations of indigenous minds without physical outside influence.

To say that "It has to be aliens!" is to disregard the intelligence, imagination, and creative ability of the indigenous people of the North and South American continents.

~Manuel Lucero, Cherokee



**HOPI R2 DROID**  
**T-SHIRT**  
**\$33**  
 For Sale  
 in the  
**MIP**  
 Trading Post

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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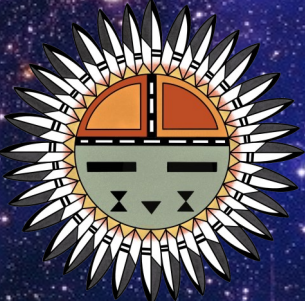
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Be sure to pick up a treasure hunt for the kids to add to the fun and education of their museum adventure!

Museum of Indigenous People  
 (928) 445-1230  
[www.museumofindigenouspeople.org](http://www.museumofindigenouspeople.org)

**ANI~NOQUISI**  
**STAR NATION**  
 Exhibit Brochure

The Cherokee word Ani~Noquisi means "Star Nation" or "Star People." In this special exhibit, we celebrate the dual meaning. Offered is a view of indigenous ways from a new perspective.



**Museum of Indigenous People**  
 June 3 ~ December 2023

## Night Sky

An endless blanket of glistening lights suspended in unfathomably deep velvety darkness— that is what the people gaze into. Wonderment abounds. Fascination with the cosmos influences art, stories, and traditions.



*Hopi Na'naank Sohu*  
(Chasing/Shooting Star)

This painting depicts a star Katsina, Nunqasohu. Hopi legends say that when one looks up into the sky, they will at times see the star Katsinam playing, chasing each other into the night, all through the universe. This is what most see, and refer to, as shooting stars or falling stars. He is holding his bell in his left hand and a yucca whip in his right. The yucca is powerful medicine and some say they can hear his bells as they shoot through the night.

"Na'nant huhu nuk'lal wa— Following/chasing each other, having fun, or being playful."  
—Fil (Yoimasa) Kewanayama, Hopi

Tales passed down through oral tradition explain the nation of stars, how the lights came to be and where they are leading. The stories carry messages of morality, teaching ethics over the generations.

### A Jicarilla Apache Star Story

The North Star that we pray to is 'Soos doo dii ai ii' which means a star that don't move. We pray to it to give us guidance. Native people pray to that star whenever we're depressed, or down, or anything like that, that it will guide us the right way, get us back on the right path. There's a lot of things we learn from those stars, our purpose in life. We pray to the Milky Way too and we pray to the Big Dipper, which we call 'Na'akosii'. And all stars are about four naughty girls that were sent to the heavens, to the stars. And those stars that we pray to, the Big Dipper, we all pray, the Native people pray, they say send all the bad evil spirits to the other side of the Big Dipper, or the North Star, to the dark side of the Earth. So that is what we do with the stars. The Milky way has a lot of meaning to us. We have a ceremony after the Milky Way which we call 'Its'aa toole'. They say it is a racetrack up in the heavens.

~Dide daa gol kaii~

People are inspired to learn more about space and how they might venture into what is beyond.

Mary Golda Ross, *Cherokee*, was the first Native American aerospace engineer. She helped write the NASA Planetary Flight Handbook and made concepts for flight missions to Mars and Venus. Many follow her path, studying space and adventuring as far as technology will allow.



Aaron Yazzie, *Diné*, is one of the Native Americans working on the Mars project. He helped develop the drill on the Perseverance Rover, which is collecting samples from the Jezero Crater in the Syrtis Quadrangle on Mars. Currently there are four Diné of the 21 Native Americans working for NASA.

In the NameExoWorlds 2022 contest, the International Astronomical Union asked teams globally to choose indigenous names for 20 exoworlds. Among the winners was one U.S.A. team, the team from Prescott. Manuel Lucero from MIP was on the team and suggested the names which were chosen.



Noquisi is the star. It's planet is Awohali, which is Cherokee for eagle, the one who flew to the sun to deliver a prayer.

## Science Fiction

Sci-Fi movies appeal to many indigenous people for their plot lines. *Star Wars* has a particular attraction. The villains are a powerful force set on invading the homes of autonomous beings for conquest, terror, and robbing natural resources. But the beings are anything but simple. They have something special on their side, a force. They nurture it and band together in rebellion against the evil empire. The plot resonates for its parallelism to colonization and rebellion.



Diné actors who dubbed *Star Wars: A New Hope*

Hopi R2 Droid, engineered by Joe Mastroianni and painted by Hopi artist Duane Koyawena, travels to events and schools. The message to school children is to keep trying, even when things look hard.

