



Zitkála-Šá Toolkit

Zitkála-Šá ("Red Bird"), also known as Gertrude Simmons Bonnin, was a Native American musician, writer and activist who fought for Native citizenship and Indigenous voting rights. She is honored on a [quarter released by the U.S. Mint](#) in October 2024.

BETTER DAYS RESOURCES:

Articles:

- [Biography: "Zitkála-Šá, the Red Bird Activist"](#)
- ["Zitkála-Šá and the Struggle for Minority Voting Rights"](#)
- ["Zitkála-Šá's records"](#)
- ["Utah and Native American Voting Rights"](#)

Printable Art:

- [Zitkála-Šá illustration by Brooke Smart](#)
- [Pin/sticker design](#)

Primary Source Set:

- [Photographs, speeches, music and newspaper articles by and about Zitkála-Šá](#)

ADDITIONAL MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES:

Videos:

- [Zitkála-Šá : Unladylike 2020 PBS film](#)
- ["Zitkála-Šá, Advocate for the Rights of Native People": Women & the American Story film](#)
- [60-Second History: Zitkála-Šá and the Fight for Native American Citizenship](#)

Writings by Zitkála-Šá:

- [American Indian Stories](#)
- [Old Indian Legends](#)
- [My Life: Impressions of an Indian Childhood](#)



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDENTS:

- Discuss the characteristics of the women honored in the [American Women Quarters Program](#). How do they compare to historical figures on other U.S. currency?
- [Use this template to design your own U.S. quarter](#) honoring a woman you think is noteworthy. Explain your design and why you chose this woman.
- Write a persuasive letter to Congress from Zitkála-Šá's perspective advocating for the rights of Native Americans. Incorporate her words from the primary sources in the source set. Or write a letter to a legislator about a cause you care about.
- Compose a [class/group opera](#), song, or poem about an issue that matters to you.

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