

NATIVE THEME ANALYSIS SHEET

Film:

As you view the film, place a in the box (or on the line) where the issue appears to apply.

- White actors playing Indian roles (prominent roles not Natives)
- Indians portrayed as “Noble Savages” (uncorrupted, innocent, guardian of nature)
- Indians portrayed as:
 - __stupid, ignorant, uncouth, buffoons
 - __strange
 - __insensitive
 - __quaint
 - __savage renegade (killer of innocents)
 - __a merciless scalper
 - __vicious attacks against whites
 - __not really human
 - __comic relief as mindless drunks
- Indians portrayed as “the problem.”
- Indians used as a device to advance the plot providing reactions against “progress” and the advancements of whites
- Indians used to create tension as a dramatic backdrop
- Indians, regardless of tribe, portrayed as living in Monument Valley
- Dress is inconsistent with the tribe depicted
- Storylines written so that Indians lose
- Portrays tribes who were never together as linked
- Told from a non-Indian viewpoint
- “Might makes right” implied or stated
- The “action” is the primary emphasis (as opposed to content or explanation)
- Recognition of only three types of Indians: the Sioux (Plains); Apache; Other (to depict over 500 tribes)
- Indian religion (or no religion) is depicted as simple, backward, uncivilized
- Depicts false practices or distorts rituals, ceremonies, tribal implements
- Derogatory comments about Native people, their cultures, or practices
- Uses the “white messiah” complex as a theme
- Used the “captured” white person as a theme (detrimental effects)
- Indian women portrayed negatively, as someone who is even less than Indian men (no power, slave, no authority, servant-like)



We will make additions in our discussion.