This multi-media resource list, compiled by Penny Talbert and Rebecca Zinner of Ephrata Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary Sun Kissed.

When a Navajo couple discovers their children have a disorder that makes exposure to sunlight fatal, they also learn their reservation is a hotbed for this rare genetic disease. Why? Sun Kissed follows Dorey and Yolanda Nez as they confront cultural taboos, tribal history and their own unconventional choices to learn the shocking truth: The consequences of the Navajos’ Long Walk — their forced relocation by the U.S. military in 1864 — are far from over.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Recessive Genetic Disorders (XP)

National Institutes of Health (U.S.) Clinical Center. Understanding Xeroderma Pigmentosum. Bethesda, MD: National Institutes of Health, 1995. This text provides extensive medical insight into the condition xeroderma pigmentosum (XP), reviewing characteristics of the disease, explaining the testing and diagnostic process, and identifying techniques used to manage symptoms.

The Long Walk

Roessel, Ruth. Navajo Stories of the Long Walk Period. Tsaile, AZ: Navajo Community College Press, 1973. Navajo narrators reflect upon the U.S. Government’s deportation of the Navajo people from their homeland during the 1860’s. Providing a unique and often unheard perspective, Navajo Stories of the Long Walk Period focuses on the impact these events had as well as the insights gained by the Navajo people.

Lake Valley Navajo School. Oral Histories of the Long Walk. Crownpoint, NM: Lake Valley Navajo School, 1991. Read the stories of the Navajo diaspora that the oral tradition has kept alive. This text contains firsthand accounts that have been passed down from generation to generation.


Navajo Nation

Locke, Raymond Friday. The Book of the Navajo. Los Angeles: Mankind Publishing Company, 1992. This comprehensive history of the Navajo people provides an accessible primer of Navajo traditions, beliefs, and place in the history of the United States.

Iverson, Peter and Monty Roessel. Diné: A History of the Navajos. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2002. Extensive archival research provides the backbone for Iverson and Roessel’s historical narrative. Tracing the Navajo from their origins to the present, this text provides a dynamic and insightful account of the history of its people.

Western Medicine and Traditional Healers


Alvord, Lori Arviso and Elizabeth Cohen Van Pelt. The Scalpel and the Silver Bear: The First Navajo Woman Surgeon Combines Western Medicine and Traditional Healing. Des Plaines, IL: Bantam, 2000. When Lori Arviso Alvord decided to become a medical doctor, she knew she would have to abandon many long-held practices of her Navajo culture. Though breaking some rules was unavoidable, she found that the philosophies behind traditional Navajo healing practices could enhance her training in modern medicine.

FILMS, VIDEOS and BROADCASTS

Long Walk: Tears of the Navajo. A film by John Howe. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2009. DVD. Navajo Elders reflect on the exile imposed upon the Navajo people in 1864 in this historical documentary. Long Walk explores what events led up to the exile and how the lives of the Navajo were irrevocably changed as a result.

Broken Rainbow. A film by Victoria Mudd. New York: Docurama, 2006. DVD. Anthropologist Victoria Mudd uses archival footage, historic photographs, as well as other materials to link the current issues of the Navajos with previous injustices the Navajo people have endured.