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We are **not** a **costume**. This is part of my **identity**.

**Regalia** is traditional clothing worn during ceremonies and celebrations.

Traditional dress is just one aspect of **native identity**.

"My regalia makes me feel happy."

"I feel good in my regalia."

"I am part of my history."

"All of the beadwork has meaning. **It tells a story**. It represents a piece of my life."

We carry on our cultural traditions, **paying respect to our ancestors**  
along the way.

"Every feather has a prayer and they each signify a separate prayer."

"My regalia means being honored by something better than myself. **And respect**  
**of traditional ways and honoring my family.**"

"**My regalia is my culture**. I love wearing it and dancing at powwows,  
because I feel like I'm honoring my loved ones."

Natives do not have the privilege of removing their identities when removing their  
regalia.

A **costume** signifies dressing as **something you are not**.

When a **native** person puts on their regalia, they are **not pretending** to be  
someone else.

They are expressing and honoring their identity.

**Regalia tells a story** about ourselves and our ancestors.

