Federal Indian Policy – Treaty Period

Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Social Studies
Grade Level: Grades 7-8
Suggested Duration: Five Class Periods

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

Social Studies Standard 2, Benchmark 8.3 Identify the significance of tribal sovereignty and Montana tribal governments’ relationship to local, state and federal governments.

Understandings

- Prior to European contact all tribes had structured forms of government to manage their affairs.
- Treaties are legal and binding documents.
- Treaties are legal documents that pertain to land, water resources, education, etc.
- Federal Indian Policy guided the process of treaty making.
- The U.S. Government has been influencing and working with tribes through various federal policies. (Essential Understanding 5)

Essential Questions

- Why did the U.S. Government develop treaties with tribal nations?
- How are treaties legal and binding in the State of Montana?
- Do all tribal nations have treaties? Why?
- How are the treaties still upheld by the U.S. Government?

Students will be able to...

- discuss treaties and how and when they were created (U.S. Government).
- recognize Montana tribal treaties and the legal issues that arise.

Students will know...

- the legal process of treaties.
- how treaties were created.
- who the treaties affected.
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Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks
1. Students will read and research literature and legal documents on the process of treaties.

2. Students will conduct a research project on treaties of the Montana tribes.

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities

To introduce the topic, ask students what they currently know about treaties made between American Indian tribes and the U.S. Government. Brainstorm a list of ideas they come up with and write on the board/overhead. Give a brief overview of the main points contained in Chapter Two: Federalism and the Indian Treaty Period (1787-1871) of History and Foundation of American Indian Education Policy. This should give students some basic background information regarding treaty making.

Assign small groups/pairs of students a different tribal group from Montana to research a treaty made between them and the U.S. Government. Students will be asked to research and present the following information from the tribe and treaty researched. A brief report and presentation will be required.

- What is the name of the treaty?
- When was the treaty signed?
- What were the main points agreed upon in the treaty?
- What did tribes give up in the treaty?
- How much land did the tribe reserve for their use in the treaty?
- Why did the U.S. Government develop treaties with tribal nations?

Evaluation will be based upon students answering all the suggested questions, how well they demonstrate a basic understanding regarding treaties, and the quality of their presentation to their classmates.

Resources


Montana Indian Law Portal This site has treaty documents for the Montana tribes.


American Indian treaty resources from the National Archives.
Additional Possible Resources


This documentary DVD, sent to Montana public high school libraries, is a beautifully illustrated introductory history of how Federal Indian Law developed in the United States and the impacts federal policies have had on American Indian and Alaska Native people.