The Diverse Make-up of Indian Communities

Fast Facts
Curriculum Area: Social Studies
Grade Level: Grades 7-8
Suggested Duration: Two-three 50-minute class periods

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

Social Studies Standard 4, Benchmark 8.7 Students will summarize major issues affecting the history, culture, tribal sovereignty, and current status of the American Indian tribes in Montana and the United States.

Understandings

• There is great diversity among the twelve sovereign tribes of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments. Each tribe has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana (EU 1).

Essential Questions

• Why/when were reservations established?
• What are the similarities and differences among Montana Tribes? (land base, language, dress, food, etc.)
• Do all Native Americans live on reservations?

Students will be able to...

• recognize differences and similarities among American Indian nations and people.
• express their findings orally and in writing.

Students will know...

• Montana Indian communities are very diverse.

Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks

1. Write a brief essay about a Montana Tribe, which will include Land Base, Enrollment, Traditions, Clothing, Food Source, etc.
2. Include artifacts, pictures, and interviews.
3. Display (use of various media to highlight major points) and orally present a brief overview
Other Evidence
1. If applicable, have students interview a tribal member/councilman or research an influential tribal leader.

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities
Make an overhead or write on the board Essential Understandings 1.
Have students write a brief statement about what this means to them and discuss.
Assign students a tribal nation to research (individually or in small groups).
Share with students resources for them to use for conducting background research.
Utilize the OPI document: Montana Indians: Their History and Location as a starting place for students to begin their research.
Ask the students to describe some of the unique characteristics of the tribe they are researching. Refer to the essential questions to help guide them with their research.
Students will display essays and give an oral interpretation of their research.

Vocabulary
Rural and Urban Indians
Elders
Traditions
Tribal Hierarchy: Clan, Band, and Council
Culture
Gender Role
Oral History

Montana Tribal Nations
Assiniboin
Blackfeet
Crow
Chippewa
Cree
Gros Ventre
Kootenai
Little Shell Chippewa
Northern Cheyenne
Pend d’Oreille
Salish
Sioux
Materials/Resources Needed

*Montana Indians: Their History and Location* This publication provides a brief introduction to the Tribal Nations of Montana.

*Montana Governor's Office of Indian Affairs* Here you can find fast facts on the tribes, reservations, and their economy, and tribal councils.

*Crossing Boundaries Through Art: Seals of Montana Tribal Nations* (Grades 6-8)

Timelines for Montana Reservations

- All
- Blackfeet
- Crow
- Flathead
- Fort Belknap
- Fort Peck
- Northern Cheyenne
- Rocky Boy's