

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.

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

Juneau, Stan, revised and updated by Walter Fleming and Lance Foster. [*History and Foundation of American Indian Education Policy*](#). Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2013.

[Montana Indian Law Portal](#) This site has treaty documents for the Montana tribes.

Cajune, Julie. “Chapter Three Tribal Histories Narrative – Treaty Period: Sovereignty and A Promise,” [Montana Tribal Histories: Educators Resource Guide](#), Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2011, 2013.

[American Indian treaty resources from the National Archives.](#)

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Additional Possible Resources

Davis, Mary B. (ed). ***Native America in the Twentieth Century, An Encyclopedia***. New York, N: Garland Publishing, Inc. 1996.

Champagne, Duane (ed). ***The Native North American Almanac: A Reference Work of Native North Americans in the United States and Canada, Second Edition***. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group, 2001.

Tribal Nations: The Story of Federal Indian Law, Tanana Chiefs Conference, 2006

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.