

Government Protecting Rights and Needs of Citizens

Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Social Studies
Grade Level: High School
Suggested Duration: Two-three 50-minute class periods

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

Social Studies Standard 4, Benchmark 12.7 Students will gain an overview of Federal Indian Law and how it impacts American Indian people today.

Understandings

- Each Montana reservation (including Little Shell) has a tribal government.
- In general, tribal governments have authority to do such things as: establish police forces, tribal courts, make laws, decide how tribal property can be used, decide who can be a member of a tribe, and ensure that tribal culture is preserved. (EU 7)

Essential Questions

- What are some of the basic principles of federal Indian policy?
- What court cases significantly impacted tribal sovereignty?

Students will be able to...

- briefly describe the history of federal Indian law and summarize major court cases that impacted tribal sovereignty.

Students will know...

- the traumatic affects of shifting federal law and policy on health and welfare of tribes and their members.
- what makes American Indians distinct from every other minority group is their unique legal and political relationship with the U.S. Government.

Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks

1. Students will write a paper on what disturbs, interests, confuses or enlightens them.



2. Students will write down at least ten new facts or important details from the film, *The Story of Federal Indian Law*.

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities

Day 1

Briefly introduce students to the topic of tribal sovereignty. Have them brainstorm what they currently know about the subject. After a brief class discussion, tell students they will be watching a DVD that covers historical and contemporary issues surrounding federal Indian policy and how it has impacted (and still does) tribal sovereignty.

Show the historical segment to class. Have them take notes on the film that will help them complete the following assignment.

- ✓ Write a one-page reaction, with what disturbs, interests, confuses, or enlightens you, to the historical segment and turn in your responses.
- ✓ Write down at least ten new facts or important details that you gained from the film.

Day 2

Have students watch the contemporary issues section and take notes. Hand back to students their one-page reaction paper from yesterday and tell them they are free to add/delete anything that they previously wrote. Collect the revised papers.

Lead a class discussion on the major issues covered in the film. List on the board new information gained as a result of watching this film.

Reaffirm to students the unique status of American Indians and the fact that tribal sovereignty is a unique aspect of our American democracy that should be understood by all Americans.

Materials/Resources Needed

DVD entitled: *Tribal Nations: The Story of Federal Indian Law*. [DVD background information](#)

