

Analyzing Montana Indians' Points of Historic Significance – Two Medicine

Fast Facts

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

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

Students will view and analyze multiple American Indian perspectives regarding the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Social Studies Standard 4, Benchmark 6 Students will investigate, interpret, and analyze the impact of multiple historical and contemporary viewpoints concerning events within and across cultures.

Understandings

- History is a story most often related through the subjective experience of the teller. With the inclusion of more and varied voices, histories are being rediscovered and revised.
- History told from an Indian perspective frequently conflicts with the stories mainstream historians tell. (EU 6)

Essential Questions

- Which Montana tribal nations discovered Lewis and Clark coming through their territory?
- Do the perspectives given in the video conflict with what you have previously learned?
- Why is it important to examine historical events from multiple perspectives?

Students will be able to...

- Briefly describe some American Indian perspectives regarding the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Students will know...

- Students will be introduced to the multiple American Indian viewpoints regarding Lewis and Clark.

Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks

1. Students will view the DVD entitled: *Two Worlds at Two Medicine*. (The Office of Public Instruction has sent a copy of this DVD to every Montana school library. Check with your school librarian.)

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

Day 1

Briefly introduce students to the topic of Lewis and Clark. Lead a class discussion/brainstorming session to see what they already know. List out topics/issues on the board.

Save at least 35 minutes of class time to allow for viewing the entire DVD.

Tell students they will be watching a film that includes interviews with several American Indians offering their perspectives on the Lewis and Clark expedition, in particular, an encounter at Two-Medicine between young Blackfeet Indians and the expedition.

Ask students to write up a one-page reaction paper to the film. Did they learn anything new? Did this conflict with what they have been previously taught? Do these perspectives differ from what is in your history textbook?

Tell them their one-page reaction papers will be due at the next class.

Things to keep in mind as you hear/read primary sources from a tribe about a particular event in history:

- With regard to events such as Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, Montana tribal histories offer differing points of view from those expressed in your American history textbook.
- Your history textbook and a tribal history each represent “points of view;” the point of view changes, depending on whose story is being told.
- Identifying and respecting another culture’s viewpoints of historical events is basic to your understanding of how histories can influence our ideas and points of view.
- Events from the past, and how they are viewed by tribes and by the U.S. government, still cause issues of concern today.
- The “discovery” of an area is not necessarily a discovery. Indigenous people had been in the area explored by the expedition for hundreds of years.

Day 2

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.

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Have students review their textbook. How are Lewis and Clark portrayed? Is a balanced perspective offered? Is there any mention of the incident with the Blackfeet?

Allow students time to add to or revise their one-page reaction papers and have them hand it in at the end of the period.

Resources

Two Worlds at Two-Medicine. Browning, MT: The Going-To-The-Sun Institute and Native View Pictures, 2004. Curly Bear Wagner (**Blackfeet**) and Dennis Neary, producers.

TrailTribes.org has some excellent information for further research

[Lewis and Clark journals](#)

Additional possible resource

Josephy, Alvin M. Jr. Ed. ***Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes.*** New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006. 192 pp. ISBN 1-4000-4267-4