

Termination – American Indian Perspectives

Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Social Studies
Grade Level: High School
Suggested Duration:

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

Social Studies Standard 4, Benchmark 12.4a 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

- Students will gain a basic understanding of the federal Indian policies of termination and relocation.
- Develop an awareness of how federal laws/policies impact individual American Indian people/families.
- The U.S. Government has been influencing tribes through various federal policies and the policies of termination and relocation were attempts at "mainstreaming" American Indian people. (EU 5, 7)

Essential Questions

- How would you feel if someone asked you to leave your home and move to a big city?
- Why would the federal government want to terminate American Indian reservations?
- To what extent did the policy of relocation help unite American Indians around common causes?

Students will be able to...

- develop a better understanding of the unique issues regarding the history of American Indians and how interactions with the federal government have evolved over time.

Students will know...

- key factual information about the policies of termination and relocation and how these impacted one Montana American Indian family.

Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks

1. Watch chapter six of the Montana Historical Society DVD entitled "Montana Mosaic" and take notes and summarize key points put forth in the video.

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

Start the class by telling students the federal government has just issued a new law and is asking that your family leave your home town due to economic factors and move to a large urban city in another state to find work. How would you feel? Where would you go? Why would the government pass such a law?

Tell students that in the 1950s there were federal Indian policies enacted called termination and relocation that were intended to do away with American Indian reservations and move Indians into big cities so they could find work and be assimilated into "mainstream" society.

Have them watch chapter six of the Montana Mosaic DVD (approximately 20 minutes long) and ask them to take notes during the clip. After the film, have them write up a one-page reaction paper to what they learned.

Lead a class discussion regarding their reactions to the film and collect the reaction papers before students leave the class.

Resources

"Chapter 6: Federal Indian Policy." [*Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events*](#), Helena, MT: Montana Historical Society and West of Kin Production, 2006.

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. (pages 40-44)