



Indian Education Division  
Montana Office of Public Instruction

## Glossary of Terms for the Indian Education for All Social Studies Model Lesson Plans

**acculturation** The process by which a culture is transformed, due to the massive adoption of cultural traits from another society. [Culture Change: Glossary of Terms  
[www.anthro.palomar.edu/change/glossary.htm](http://www.anthro.palomar.edu/change/glossary.htm)]

**accuracy of information** A factor in determining information quality. If information is accurate, it is factually true.

**allotment** “Refers to the policy of the federal government of dividing Indian reservations into parcels assigned to individual families, usually under a highly restricted form of fee simple ownership (the usual form of private land ownership in the United States). The basic legislation was the General Allotment (Dawes) Act of 1887.” [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia. p. 27]

**Allotment Period** See allotment.

**ancestor** A person from whom one is descended; a relative who lived in the past.

**ancestral lands** Lands utilized by Indian tribes in their migrations and in their hunting/fishing; frequently referred to in their oral histories, and still connected to tribes and their cultures today. These lands may or may not be on reservations.

**Assimilation** The absorption of an individual or minority group of people into another society or group. This is achieved by learning and adopting the cultural traditions of the society to which assimilation occurs. It is also often hastened by intermarriage and by de-emphasizing cultural and or biological

differences. [Culture Change: Glossary of Terms [anthro.palomar.edu/change/glossary.htm](http://anthro.palomar.edu/change/glossary.htm)]

**Assimilation Period** At the end of the treaty-making period in 1871, the U.S. Congress began a policy aimed at narrowing tribal and individual Indigenous rights and encouraging Indigenous Americans to move from reservations. Assimilation, allotment, and U.S. citizenship for Indigenous Americans became official policy goals and continued until the late 1920s. [Deloria 1985, Cooper 1990, Pevar 1992, as stated in *Historical Chronology* by the Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, available online]

**Assiniboine Indian Tribe** “*Nakoda* or *Nakota*, *As’see nee poi-tuc*—those who cook with stones. A Plains people whose original territory was around the Great Lakes. The Eastern Assiniboine are in Montana ... most ... live on the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck reservations. Their language is part of the Dakota dialect complex, which is one of five Siouan languages spoken in historical times on the plains. ...” [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia. p. 63-64]

**band** Commonly, bands were hunter-gatherers in the past. Bands usually have no permanent leaders; decisions are based on building consensus. Leadership tends to be situational, arising for short periods of time.  
[[www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline.indian\\_sglossary.cfm](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline.indian_sglossary.cfm)]

**BIA** The Bureau of Indian Affairs, a U.S. federal government agency.

**bias** A highly personal and unreasoned distortion of judgment; prejudice. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**Blackfeet Indian Tribe** One of four closely related tribes of Plains Indians known generally by the name of Blackfeet. All of the tribes spoke the same Algonquian language. ...The Blackfeet in Montana, also known as the Southern Peigan or Pigunni, are the only group of Blackfeet Indians to have a reservation in the United States. [*Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia*. p. 75]

**Blackfeet Reservation** Land base that the Blackfeet Indians reserved for themselves when they relinquished other land areas to the United States through treaties. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 1, 2005]

**blood quantum** Blood Quantum is the total percentage of your blood that is tribal native due to bloodline. All of the tribal nations use Blood Quantum as a requirement for membership. Usually this is detailed on a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) Card issued by the U.S. government. Additionally, many of the tribal nations have other requirements for membership. [www.americanindiansource.com]

**Boarding School Era** An era when Indian children were taken from their families by the U.S. government, to be educated in boarding facilities.

**Chippewa Indian Tribe** To end any confusion, the Ojibwe and Chippewa are not only the same tribe, but the same word pronounced a little differently due to accent. If an "O" is placed in front of Chippewa (O'chippewa), the relationship becomes apparent. Ojibwe is used in Canada, although Ojibwe west of Lake Winnipeg are sometime referred to as the Saulteaux. In the United States, Chippewa was used in all treaties and is

the official name. The Ojibwe call themselves Anishinabe (Anishinaubag, Neshnabek) meaning "original men" (sometimes shortened to Shinob and used as a nickname among themselves). Ottawa and Potawatomi also call themselves Anishinabe, and at some time in the past, the three tribes were a single tribe. Ojibwe, or Chippewa, comes from the Algonquin word "otchipwa" (to pucker) and refers to the distinctive puckered seam of Ojibwe moccasins. Various spellings: Achipoes, Chepeway, Chippeway, Ochipoy, Odjibwa, Ojibweg, Ojibwey, Ojibwa, and Otchipwe. [littleshelltribe.us]

**civil rights** The rights belonging to an individual by virtue of citizenship, especially the fundamental freedoms and privileges guaranteed by the 13th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and by subsequent acts of Congress, including civil liberties, due process, equal protection of the laws, and freedom from discrimination. [*American Heritage Dictionary*]

**clan** Two or more lineages claiming descent from a common ancestor. [Digital History; www.digitalhistory.uh.edu.history online.indiansglossary.cfm]

**Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes** "The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are comprised of the Bitterroot Salish, the Pend d' Oreille and the Kootenai tribes. The Flathead Reservation of 1.317 million acres in northwest Montana is our home now but our ancestors lived in the territory now known as western Montana, parts of Idaho, British Columbia and Wyoming. This aboriginal territory exceeded 20 million acres at the time of the 1855 Hellgate Treaty." [www.cskt.org]

**Cree Indian Tribe** The name Cree, comes from "Kristineaux," or "Kri" for short; a name given to Native Americans from the James Bay area by French fur traders [www.creeindian.com]. "At present [1936] the Plains Cree are

settled on some twenty-four small reserves in Saskatchewan and Alberta, and on one reserve, Rocky Boy, in Montana. The Montana reserve was largely composed of those Plains Cree who fled to the United States after the Riel Rebellion of 1885." [*The Plains Cree: An Ethnographic, Historical, and Comparative Study*. David G. Mandelbaum, 1979. Canadian Plains Research Center University of Regina. Available online: [www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal/Plains\\_Cree](http://www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal/Plains_Cree)]

**cross-cultural setting** A setting where one must set aside what the standard for "normal" is within one's own culture, and try to understand the reasons something is accepted as normal in another culture (according to *that* culture's standard). There are aspects of culture that are fundamental but subtle, and important to grasp if one is to function effectively within the new cultural context. [*Building Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross Cultural Understanding*, pp. 30, 38]

**Crow Indian Tribe** The Crow call themselves Absaroka or Apsaalooke, often translated "children of the large-beaked bird." Linguistically part of the Siouan family, the Crow are historically associated with the Hiditsa. Today they are located on their reservation in south central Montana.... [*Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia*. p. 152-153]

**Crow Reservation** Land base that the Crow Indian tribe reserved for itself when it relinquished other land areas to the United States through treaties. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 1, 2005]

**culture** A system of beliefs, values, and assumptions about life that guide behavior and are shared by a group of people. It includes customs, language, and material artifacts. These are transmitted from generation to generation, rarely with explicit instructions. [*Building*

*Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide to Cross Cultural Understanding*, pp. 9, 14]

**Dakota Indian Tribe[s]** Commonly known as Sioux, Dakota means friends or allies in the Dakota language. They were known generally as Dakota or by their individual group/band names. Today Dakota are located in several states and Canada ranging from Minnesota, Nebraska, North/South Dakota and Montana. [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia p. 161]

**day school** An elementary or secondary school held on weekdays; or, a private school without boarding facilities. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**descent** Originating from an ancestor. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**discrimination** The act of distinguishing differences between people and showing favoritism or prejudicial rejection of them. [[anthro.Palomar.edu/tutorials/cglossary.htm](http://anthro.Palomar.edu/tutorials/cglossary.htm)]

**diversity** The condition of being different. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**embedded values** The visible and invisible values of the author, as shown in his/her published work. For example, an author who writes about American Indians using his/her own traditional values to make judgments and assertions about American Indians. [MT SS 1]

**epidemic** An outbreak of a disease (such as small pox, for example) that spreads quickly and affects many people at the same time. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**ethnic group** Of, or relating to, a group of people classed according to common national, tribal, cultural backgrounds. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**family tree** A genealogical diagram of family relationships. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**Federal Policy Periods** Federal policies were put into place that have impacted Indian people, and which shape who they are today. These periods are described as: Colonization Period, Treaty Period, Allotment Period, Boarding School Period, Tribal Reorganization, Termination, Self-Determination. See individual entries for descriptions of each of these. [Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians, EU 5, 2005]

**first-person point of view** A character tells the story; the reader learns only what the character knows, thinks, and feels. Referring to the speaker or the writer of the utterance. ... [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**Flathead Reservation** Land base that the Salish, Kootenai, Pend d' Oreille Indian tribes reserved for themselves when they relinquished other land areas to the United States through treaties. Located in western Montana. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 1, 2005]

**Fort Belknap Reservation** Land base that the Gros Ventre and the Assiniboine Indian tribes reserved for themselves when they relinquished other land areas to the United States through treaties. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 1, 2005]

**Fort Peck Reservation** Land base that the Dakota and Assiniboine Indian tribes reserved for themselves when they relinquished other land areas to the United States through treaties. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 1, 2005]

**Gros Ventre Indian Tribe.** From a French word meaning *big belly*. These people refer to

themselves as the White Clay People, or in their own language, "AH-AH-NE-NIN." [*Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia*. p. 226-227]

**heritage** Something passed down from one generation of people to the next generation. Something transmitted or acquired by a predecessor. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**history** The study of the past; a record of what happened in the past.

**historical perspective** History is a story and most often related through the subjective experience of the teller. Histories are being rediscovered and revised. History told from an Indian perspective conflicts with what most of mainstream history tells us. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 6, 2005]

**indigenous** Referring to the native population of an area. [Culture Change: Glossary of Terms [www.anthro.palomar.edu/change/glossary.htm](http://www.anthro.palomar.edu/change/glossary.htm)]

**information quality** The quality of the information obtained, based on accuracy, relevance, fact or fiction; also relies on factors including primary source information, secondary source information, point of view, and embedded values of the author. [MT SS 1]

**Indian** A person who is of some degree of Indian blood, and is recognized by a tribe/village and/or the United States. No universally accepted rule exists for establishing a person's identity as an Indian. The criteria for tribal members differs from one tribe to the next. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 2, 2005]

**invisible aspects of culture** Those which are beneath the surface, frequently influencing and cause visible aspects of culture. [*Building*

*Bridges: A Peace Corps Classroom Guide To Cross Cultural Understanding, pp. 9, 14, 38-41]*

**Kootenai Tribe** This tribe has been in western Montana for centuries. The Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana has many Kootenai Tribe members, mainly in and around the small town of Elmo on Flathead Lake. [Salish-Kootenai Tribal History; available online]

**Lakota Indian Tribe** “Lakota is the Native term for both the language and the people commonly called western “Sioux,” and the largest division of the *Oceti Sakowin* or “Seven Fireplaces.” Lakota is also synonymous with *Titunwan* meaning “Prairie Dwellers,” anglicized as Teton.” [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia. p. 299]

**lineage** A group of persons tracing descent from a common ancestor. [Digital History. [www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/indians/glossary.cfm](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/indians/glossary.cfm)]

**Little Shell Chippewa Band** A band of the Chippewa and Cree Indians with tribal council headquarters in Great Falls, Montana. Not yet a federally recognized tribe. [littleshelltribe.us] The Little Shell Tribal Council is headquartered in Great Falls, Montana. This band of is a state-recognized tribe without a designated reservation in Montana. There are over 4,000 enrolled members within the state, many of whom live in the Great Falls and surrounding area. The tribe is currently petitioning for federal recognition. [<http://www.visit.mt.com/places-to-go/Indian-nations.html>]

**migration** Seasonal migrations of foragers or pastoralists between different environments in their territories. This often involves migrations that take people from spring to summer camps and then to fall and finally winter ones. This cycle of migrations that is repeated yearly is determined by the resources that can be

exploited at particular times of the year in different areas. Carrying out such a round of migrations increases the amount of food that can be obtained by a society. As a result a somewhat larger population can be supported. [www.anthro.Palomar.edu/tutorials/cglossary.htm]

**Northern Cheyenne Indian Tribe** The word Cheyenne is derived from the Lakota word *sha-hi’ye-la*, meaning “red talkers” or “people of an alien speech.” The Cheyenne refer to themselves as *Tse-tsehese-staestse* or “People.” [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia. p. 100]

**Northern Cheyenne Reservation** ... The Northern Cheyenne reservation ... was established by ... an 1884 executive order, in southeastern Montana. [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia. p. 100]

**oral history** Each tribe has a history that can be traced to the beginning of time. Many of these histories will be told only orally, as they have been passed down through generations. These histories are as valid as any other mythology or belief. Some tribes **may only tell certain stories during certain times of the year, and this knowledge should be respected.** ... [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 3, 2005]

**oral tradition** A tribe’s traditional beliefs and legends that have been passed from generation to generation by word. These histories and traditions may be private, to be used and understood only by members of that particular tribe. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 3, 2005]

**over-generalize** Generalize to an excessive degree, so that a particular characteristic or aspect is regarded as applicable to every person of a group. [Webster’s Ninth Collegiate Dictionary]

**over simplify** Simplify to an excessive degree, so that a belief or statement about a person is distorted. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**Pend d' Oreille Tribe** One of three tribes within the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe of the Flathead Reservation in northwest Montana.

**point of view** The standpoint from which something is considered or valued. An author might write in the *first-person point of view* or in the *third-person point of view*. Synonyms include: angle, attitude, frame of reference, opinion, orientation, outlook, perspective, position, private opinion, slant, standpoint, two cents worth, viewpoint, way of thinking [from *Roget's Thesaurus of Phrases*, 2001]

**prejudice** To judge before hearing or before full and sufficient examination (to prejudge). Also, an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, a race, or their supposed characteristics. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**primary source** Primary resources provide firsthand evidence of historical events. They are, generally, unpublished materials such as manuscripts, photographs, maps, artifacts, audio and video recordings, oral histories, postcards, and posters. For example, a treaty between the U.S. government and a tribe is a primary resource. [UCLA Institute on Primary Sources, available on Internet]

**propaganda techniques** Methods - not based in fact - used to make persuasive arguments. Critical readers identify these techniques so that they can identify when unclear thinking has occurred, or when an argument deliberately appeals to emotion. Such techniques include: appeal to ignorance, bandwagon, over-generalization, circular thinking, either/or (looking at something as if it only has two

sides), loaded (emotionally charged) words, oversimplification, using a "straw man"—exaggerating or oversimplifying so that something appears ridiculous. [Adapted from Great Source Education Group's *Reader's Handbook: A student Guide for Reading and Learning*, 2002]

**reasoned judgment** Relies on factual information which supports the belief being made. When making a reasoned judgment, one might use words such as *believe* and *probably*. These words indicate that a judgment is being made.

**reservations** Land reserved by the tribes for their own use, through treaties and was not "given" to them. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 1, 2005]

**ritual** The established form of a ceremony, a certain way of doing something; an act that is customarily repeated. [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary*]

**Rocky Boy's Reservation** This reservation was established by executive order in 1916. [Native America in the Twentieth Century: An Encyclopedia p. 149]

**Salish Tribe** The Bitterroot Salish tribe were removed from their homeland in Montana's Bitterroot Valley, after a long struggle. The tribe is a part of the Flathead Indian Reservation in western Montana. Members are concentrated around the towns of St. Ignatius, Arlee and Ronan on the reservation. [Salish-Kootenai Tribal History, available online]

**secondary source** Secondary materials, such as textbooks, synthesize and interpret primary materials. A grade 6 textbook in history is an example of a secondary source. [UCLA Institute on Primary Sources, available on Internet]

**self-determination** "... Indigenous Nations possess certain sovereign powers to exercise government, enter into agreements, and develop and protect natural resources." [Deloria 1985, Cooper 1990, Pevar 1992, as stated in *Historical Chronology* by the Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, available online]

**sovereign powers** Before colonization, Indian tribes possessed complete sovereignty. Tribes are now classified as domestic, dependent nations. Tribes have the power to define their own membership, structure, and operate their own tribal governments, regulate domestic relations, settle disputes, manage their property and resources, raise tax revenues, regulate businesses, and conduct relations with other governments. It also means that the U.S. government is obligated to protect tribal lands and resources, protect the tribes' right to self-government, and provide social, medical, educational and economic development services necessary for the survival and advancement of tribes. [Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians, EU 7, 2005]

**sovereignty** The supreme power from which all political powers are derived. It is "inherent"—it cannot be given to one group by another. Sovereignty ensures self-government, cultural preservation, and a peoples' control of their future. Sovereignty affirms the political identity of Indian Nations—they are not simply a racial or ethnic minority. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 7, 2005]

**stereotype** An oversimplified conception of a group of people in which all individuals in the group are labeled and often treated based on certain perceived group characteristics. [www.ahla.com/diversity\_glossary]

**suffrage** The right to vote. [Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary]

**technology** The tools, machines and methods used within a culture. [Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary]

**termination** Termination was designed to produce rapid, forced assimilation. Under termination, the trust relationship between Indigenous Americans and the U.S. government would gradually decrease and eventually dissolve. Economic development on reservations was ignored, and Indigenous people were encouraged to seek a life off the reservation. [Deloria 1985, Cooper 1990, Pevar 1992, as stated in *Historical Chronology* by the Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, available online]

**third-person point of view** The story or narrative is told by a *narrator* outside the story or narrative; this narrator makes *observations*. Referring to one that is neither the speaker nor writer of the utterance ... or the one to whom that utterance is addressed. [Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary]

**tolerance** Respecting beliefs and actions which differ from one's own beliefs and ideas. Respecting what other people/cultures value and do is a way to help them develop both the self-esteem and the feelings of integrity that will enhance their learning. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 2, 2005]

**traditional Indians** Those American Indians who show characteristics of American Indian ways of being and belief. A continuum exists between traditional and nontraditional members of tribes. All have a variety of backgrounds, differences of skin color, dress, behavior, along with deeper and subtler differences of values and ways of being and learning. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 2, 2005]

**treaty** An agreement or arrangement made by negotiation. A contract in writing between two or more political authorities (as states or sovereigns) formally signed by representatives duly authorized and usually ratified by the lawmaking authority of the state. [*Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary*]

**tribal membership** One's official identity with a particular tribe depends on that tribe's definition and requirements for membership. [Essential Understanding Regarding Montana Indians, EU 2, 2005]

**trust responsibility** This unique relationship was first formally addressed by Chief Justice Marshall. He referred to tribes as distinct political communities calling them domestic, dependent nations. The U.S. trust relationship is one of government to government with the U.S. government assuming legal and moral responsibilities in dealings with tribal nations. {Utter, 1993, *American Indians: Answers to Today's Questions*}

**Tipi** Dakota/Lakota/Nakota word for home. Traditional dwelling consisting of a hide or canvas lashed to a conical frame of poles. {Keoke and Porterfield, 2002, *Encyclopedia of American Indian Contributions to the World*}

**urban Indian** An American Indian living off the reservation in an urban setting.

**vision quest** Traditional ceremony consisting of fasting and solitary prayer used for seeking guidance and wisdom in life. This ceremony is still conducted today by many tribal nations each with their own unique rituals and traditions. {Champagne, 2001, *The Native North American Almanac*}

**Wounded Knee** In 1890, the U.S. 7th Cavalry massacred 300 Lakota men, women and children. This incident stemmed from misunderstandings about the Ghost Dance religious movement. [Champagne, 2001, *The Native North American Almanac*]