

Peace Together
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OVERVIEW

Students will research the reasons the government was trying to move American Indian off their land and on to reservation.

STANDARDS

- Reading and Writing Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.
- Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Reading and Writing Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, a listening, and viewing.
- Reading and Writing Standard 5: Students read to locate, select and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, references, and technology sources.
- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 3: Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- Use primary source materials to help identify and understand the reasons the American Indians were being asked/told to move off their land.
- Make use of historical information on the relocation of the American Indian to construct an argument for living together in harmony.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- Why did the government and the settlers want the American Indians to move off their land?
- Why did the American want to stay on their land?

- What compromises could be made to allow both sides to live together peacefully?

MATERIALS

- Doing History/Keeping the Past CDROM disk or website.
- Colorado Indians/Reservation Live/Moving to Reservation/All pictures.
- Other resources selected by the teacher.

PROCEDURE

1. Have students research the reasons the government and the settlers wanted the American Indians to move off their land using the Doing History/Keeping the Past website and other resources.
2. Divide students into groups of 3-4 students to discuss their research. Have each group make a list of reasons the American Indian was being asked to move.
3. After the groups have finished their discussions and have completed their charts, conduct a whole class discussion to review the findings of the student and discuss reasons.
4. Have small groups reconvene to discuss why the Native Americans did not want to be relocated and some possible compromises.
5. Have small group construct a speech that they could give to the government/settlers to support their beliefs and allow both groups to live in harmony.
6. Have students present their speech to the class.

EXTENSIONS

- Have students conduct a debate, selecting one group to role-play the government/settlers and the other to role-play the American Indians.

ASSESSMENT

- Observe the student's use of primary source documents and other resource materials to answer the inquiry questions.
- Evaluate the group presentations.

Group Assignment

Your group has been asked to meet with government officials in Washington D.C. to explain their position on a potential move the reservation. Since you are the representative of your tribe, you need to thoroughly and carefully research the problem, concisely describe the feelings of your tribe, and suggest possible compromises that would allow both groups to live together peacefully. To explain your position and to persuade the government to accept a compromise solution, you will need to write a speech that you will present at the meeting. If and when a compromise is reached, the speech will also need to be given to groups of settlers and townspeople.