



Homestead Resources – American Indian Perspectives

2012 marks the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act. The resources listed below help to provide insight into the impact the law had on Indian communities and provide multiple perspectives.

Relevant Essential Understandings Regarding American Indians:

Essential Understanding 5 – Federal Indian Policy

- Federal policies, put into place throughout American history, have affected Indian people and still shape who they are today. Much of Indian history can be related through several major federal policy periods: *Colonization Period, Treaty Period, Allotment Period, Boarding School Period, Tribal Reorganization Period, Termination Period and Self-determination.*

Essential Understanding 6 – History from Indian Perspectives

- 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.

Suggested Resources

These examples provide alternative perspectives regarding the Homestead Act and are useful in examining American History from American Indian perspectives.

Montana Tribal Histories: Educators Resource Guide – Chapter 6 – Allotment and Homesteading: Losing the Land – access this resource in the school library or via the OPI Indian Education Curriculum Resources website – <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html/>

This chapter provides an excellent overview of allotment and homesteading and how the impacts resulted in a significant loss of land for American Indian Nations. Two model lesson plans are also included at the end of the chapter.

OPI Model Lesson Plans – these lessons focus on land issues and provide an overview of allotment issues and American Indian perspectives. Lesson plans can be accessed at the following website – <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html> – filter the table to Social Studies.

Social Studies

Middle School

Grade 7-8

[Analyzing Diverse Land Use](#)

Social Studies	Middle School	Grade 7-8	Federal Indian Policy – The Allotment Period
Social Studies	High School	High School	The Allotment Period – American Indian Perspectives

Montana: Stories of the Land. Chapter 11 – pages 219-222 provides an overview of the General Allotment Act or the Dawes Act and impacts on American Indians.

See also Chapter 13 – pages 255 – 256 which provides another perspective regarding the Homestead Act. Visit this link for on-line access to the textbook: <http://mhs.mt.gov/education/Textbook/Introduction.asp>

Montana Tribes Digital Archives is an on-line resource with over 100 interviews featuring over 30 American Indians offering their perspectives of the Essential Understandings Regarding American Indians. This resource can be accessed at: www.montanatribes.org – See Essential Understanding 5 and click on allotment to hear American Indian perspectives regarding this topic.

http://www.montanatribes.org/digital_archives/matrix_eu5.php?page=eu/eu5-4

Film resource – Inside Anna’s Classroom – This film examines how a current Montana educator, Dr. Anna Baldwin, is teaching about homestead issues and perspectives in her English classroom. A copy will be sent to all middle and high school libraries Fall 2012. <http://www.caipar.org/Home.html>

Film resource – [The Allotment Act, Flathead Indian Reservation and the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes: “The Worst Thing They Ever Done”](#) – This 17 min. film (posted on the KSKC – Public TV website) was created in 2010, mainly utilizing carefully chosen excerpts from the 1991 *The Place of the Falling Waters,*” which addresses the allotment act and the impact of the opening of the Flathead Reservation to non-Indian settlement. The film is centered on unprecedented interviews recorded in 1988 with Salish, Pend d’Oreille, and Kootenai elders who were old enough to have direct first-hand memories of the influx of non-Indians onto the reservation.

Indian Land Tenure Foundation – excellent resources for examining American Indian land issues. <http://www.iltf.org/land-issues>

[Excerpts from American Indian Homelands](#) – video clip – access the OPI Indian Education website – Indian Education for All/Background Resources/Videos - <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/IEFAVideo.html>

This film clip is from *American Indian Homelands: Matters of truth, honor and dignity-immemorial*. The film clip contains interviews with several American Indian leaders offering their perspectives on historic and contemporary land issues. The film powerfully highlights efforts to redress more than a century’s worth of legal and political moves undermining Indian land ownership and sovereignty, going back to the 1887 General Allotment Act.

Access recent on-line articles about homesteading and American Indian perspectives via the Internet. Search for articles by using keywords that contain Homestead Act, American Indians, and Allotment Act.

Examples of on-line articles/resources regarding the Homestead Act and Allotment:

http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/territory/flathead-reservation-marks-century-of-white-settlement/article_eaf28b32-c919-11df-aa0c-001cc4c03286.html

http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0700/frameset_reset.html?http://www.nebraskastudies.org/0700/stories/0701_0143.html

<http://trailtribes.org/pierre/shrinking-reservation.htm>