



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

Social Studies Model Lesson Plan

Federal Indian Policy - Termination

Topic 19 – Federal Indian Policy - Termination

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals:

Students will gain a basic understanding of the federal Indian policies of termination and relocation.

Social Studies Standard 4, Benchmark 8.7 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:

- The U.S. Government has been influencing tribes through various federal policies and the policy of termination and relocation was an attempt 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 6 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 of by telling students that the federal government has just issued a new law and is asking that your family leave your home town (due to economic factors) and you must 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?



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Federal Indian Policy – Termination (continued)

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 film 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:

The following DVD was sent to all schools in the state of Montana. Check with your local school librarian to obtain a copy for viewing in class.

“Chapter 6: Federal Indian Policy.” *Montana Mosaic: 20th Century People and Events*– An educational series produced by the Montana Historical Society and West of Kin Production, 2006.

For more information -- <http://mhs.mt.gov/Education/MontanaMosaic.aspx>

For an overview of the policies of termination and relocation have students read page 35-38 of the following document:

Juneau, Stan (**Blackfoot**). *A History and Foundation of American Indian Education Policy*. Helena, MT: Montana Office of Public Instruction, 2001.

http://opi.mt.gov/pdf/IndianEd/Resources/History_FoundationAmIndianEd.pdf

For another perspective on termination have students read book from a highly respected law professor:

Struggle: The Rise of Modern Indian Nations by Charles Wilkinson. Students could read and react to the ideas put forth in the book.