



Contributor: Martha J. Wellinton **Grade Level:** 9th-12th

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

This lesson plan will address the following Kansas state standards: 1. Choices have consequences. 2. Individuals have rights and responsibilities. 5. Relationships between people, place, idea, and environments are dynamic.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Students will receive an overview/history of treaties initiated between various American Indian tribes and U.S. government from 1778 to 188, and gain understanding of how the subsequent broken treaties led to Westward Expansion. Students will become familiar with tribal leaders and see consequences of broken treaties through the years.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

Video-Why Treaties Matter (NPR) and video guide questions; 2.) Library/internet research on pertinent treaties and results of those treaties and provide students with reference list of websites for further exploration; 3.) video guide; 4.) student worksheets.

4. Introduction of the topic:

Teacher shows the NPR video on broken treaties, encouraging students to take notes summarizing the content by completing the video guide provided.

5. Procedure for instruction:

Teacher provides an overview on definitions of "treaty" and "sovereignty." Teacher also generally discusses key treaties that were signed with various tribes during the 1700s and 1800s. Also utilizing pertinent resource materials, leads discussions related to how treaties were perceived by both tribal nations and the U.S. government, and provides timelines of treaty signings, progressive of Westward movement, and other factors that influenced the broken treaties.

6. Lesson closure:

Explain in writing how treaties with American Indian tribes shaped the United States and all of its people groups. Students should choose 1-3 treaties to discuss in more detail providing accurate information, correct English grammar, cite multiple sources, and show how treaties were meant to impact both tribes and/or US government, as well as specific results of broken treaties.

7. Assessment of Understanding:

Assessment of various worksheets and main essay assignment.

Broken Treaties

“I would venture to guess that to the extent they have ever had occasion to think about them, most Americans think of treaties as ancient relics of the past that have long since been forgotten and which certainly have no relevance to modern society.”

“Too few Americans know that the Indian nations ceded millions of acres of lands to the United States, or that...the promises and commitments made by the United States were typically made in perpetuity. History has recorded, however, that our great nation did not keep its word to the Indian nations, and our preeminent challenge today...is to assure the integrity of our treaty commitments and to bring an end to the era of broken promises.”

--Late Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D.-Hawaii)

Video Listening Guide--

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bexvE4IZRGo> – NPR “Why Treaties Matter” (5 minutes)

Video will provide a very brief overview of treaties between the United States and Native tribes. The video also introduces students to a variety of American Indian speakers—all tribal leaders, university educators who are from different tribes.

What is a treaty?

How many treaties were made between the United States and native nations?

Name some of the tribes represented by the speakers.

What rights were given away by Native Americans?

What does the Constitution say about treaties?

Are treaties still valid today? Why or why not?

What current event brought treaty rights to the forefront recently?

Discussion of American Indians, Treaties with the U.S.

Part 1. What do you already understand and perceive? Before reading any documents, include positive impressions and negative impressions you have heard about American Indians, treaties and tribal relationships to the U.S. Government from history.

Positive Impressions	Negative Impressions

Part 2. What does the research say? Include specific examples from legitimate sources to verify or refute the impressions you listed above. (Include source and use a different source for each box.)

Positive Impressions	Negative Impressions

Treaties
1778-1871
(After review of resource materials)
Worksheet

1. What were the strategies behind the US Government related to making treaties with Native tribes?

2. What social, economic and political problems arose upon the violations of the 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaty?

3. How were Native American tribes initially impacted by the signing of treaties with the United States government?

4. What tribe was the first to sign a treaty with America and when was it signed? What were some of the purposes of these early treaties?

5. Describe the Indian Removal Act of 1830, including related events surrounding this act that impacted the Cherokee. Include information on President Andrew Jackson and his role in the Act.

Resource Materials

<https://www.history.com/news/native-american-broken-treaties>

<https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/treaties>

<http://recordsofrights.org/themes/4/rights-of-native-americans>

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/treaties-between-the-united-states-and-indigenous-nations-explained>

<https://www.americanindianmagazine.org/story/nation-nation-treaties-between-united-states-and-american-indian-nations>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/1868-two-nations-made-treaty-us-broke-it-and-plains-indian-tribes-are-still-seeking-justice-180970741/>

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nationtonation/fort-laramie-treaty.html>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/01/18/368559990/broken-promises-on-display-at-native-american-treaties-exhibit>

<http://treatiesmatter.org/exhibit/welcome/broken-promises/> (Minnesota & includes classroom content development as well)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHq6ncJJ35w> – Oregon Public Broadcasting “Oregon Experience: Broken Treaties: Full Documentary 59 minutes

Books

Behind the Trail of Broken Treaties: An Indian Declaration of Independence by Vine Deloria, Jr.
Tribes, Treaties, and Constitutional Tribulations by Vine Deloria, Jr.

Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and the American Indian Nations by Kevin Gover, Suzan Shown Harjo, Philip J. Deloria, N. Scott Momaday, and Hank Adams, September 30, 2014