

LESSON PLAN

The United States and the Issue of Genocide

FOUNDATION: *UNIT V. International Human Rights in the Domestic US Context*

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LENGTH

4 days

NEBRASKA SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS

World History: 12.2.10

US History: 12.1.4

McREL NATIONAL STANDARDS

US History: 9.1, 9.2

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will research the Genocide Convention and the United States position on this topic.
2. Based on their understanding of this convention, students will determine whether the term "genocide" applies to the experience of the Native Americans in the United States as it relates to three specific events:
 - Sand Creek Massacre
 - Massacre at Wounded Knee
 - Trail of Tears

TERMS

Genocide
Ratification
RUDs
Massacre at
Wounded Knee
Sand Creek Massacre
Trail of Tears

MATERIALS

Websites:

House of Representatives Support for Genocide Convention

[http://www.congress.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp108%3AFLD010%3A%401\(hr130\)](http://www.congress.gov/cgi-bin/cpquery/R?cp108%3AFLD010%3A%401(hr130))

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/genocide.htm>

Prevent Genocide International (supplemental site)

<http://www.preventgenocide.org/>

Sand Creek Massacre National Historical Site

<http://www.nps.gov/sand/historyculture/index.htm>

Wounded Knee Massacre

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/1890s/woundedknee/WKmscr.html>

Cherokee Trail of Tears

<http://www.nps.gov/archive/trte/TRTE/history.htm>

Trail of Tears

<http://www.ngeorgia.com/history/nghisttt.html>

Day One:

- I. Using the above website from the House of Representatives, have students read the information and then prepare a short essay that explains their understanding of the term genocide and where the United States stood on ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Day Two – Three:

- II. Divide students into the following three groups for a class debate:
 - a. Acts of genocide have been committed in the United States against the Native American population.
 - b. Acts of genocide have not been committed in the United States against the Native American population.
 - c. Debate panel moderators

LESSON PLAN

- IV.** Explain that students will use their understanding of the 19 Articles of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to supplement their position in the debate (second website above).

- V.** Have students divide up and research the basic history of the following:
 - a.** Sand Creek Massacre
 - b.** Massacre at Wounded Knee
 - c.** Trail of Tears

- VI.** Based on their understanding of the events above and the position they hold in the debate activity, have students prepare questions/arguments to support their position.

Day Four:

- VII.** Engage in a debate guided by the panel moderators.