

Montana Small Schools Alliance
HONORING MONTANA'S FIRST PEOPLES

UNIT: American Indian Games

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SCHOOL AND COUNTY: Deerfield Colony School in Fergus County

GRADE LEVEL: K-4

INDIAN RESERVATION REFERENCED: Fort Belknap

SUBJECT AREAS: Language, Health Enhancement and Writing

LESSON DESCRIPTION: Students will research and write about different American Indian games. Students may use reference books available in the classroom, library, or the Internet. Students will demonstrate how the games are played.

This lesson could take approximately 2-3 days. I would do the researching and writing the first two days, and the demonstration of the game on the third day.

SOURCE:

Lavine, Sigmund A. The Games the Indians Played. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1974.

CONTENT STANDARDS ADDRESSED:

Health Enhancement Standard 7: Students demonstrate health-enhancing behaviors. Benchmark 3, 4.

Writing Standard 4: Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Benchmark 3.

World Languages Standard 4: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the perspectives, practices, and products/contributions of cultures studied, and use this knowledge to interact effectively in cultural contexts. Benchmark 1, 4.

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT MONTANA INDIANS:

Essential Understanding 3: The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions and languages

are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Additionally, each tribe has its own oral history beginning with their origins that are as valid as written histories. These histories pre-date the “discovery” of North America.

Editor’s Note:

These are a series of eleven short instructional units that integrate various subject area content standards and the Montana American Indian Essential Understanding 3. The different units can be used at different times throughout the year so that students will have several opportunities to learn to Honor Montana’s First Peoples of the Fort Belknap and the Flathead Reservations. It is suggested that the class do the six units on the Fort Belknap Reservation first.

Before beginning these units, teachers should view the official website of the Fort Belknap Nations (www.fortbelknapnations.nsn.gov) and read the home pages of the histories of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Peoples. Also, teachers could review and use the three DVD’s provided to all Montana school districts by the Indian Education for All Program at OPI. The three are *Long Ago in Montana*, *Talking without Words*, and *Tribes in Montana*. In addition, the author has provided some specific resources for these units.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:

Students will have an understanding of the many different American Indian games. Students will spend time in the library or on the Internet researching the traditional American Indian games. If there is an American Indian tribe close, they may also want to go and discuss the game with the elders or the teachers at that school.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will research how to play an American Indian game of their choice. Students will write a description of how the game is played. Students will demonstrate how the game is played. They will play the game together as a class.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:

Discuss with the class the many different traditional American Indian games. Students will choose a game to research and learn how to play. Students will write a report on how the game is played and then demonstrate to the class. The class will then play the game.

ASSESSMENT:

The final assessment is the playing of the game, making sure directions were clear and that the others were able to understand how it is played.