

Achievement Goal:
Understand the basic concepts behind ownership of things and land.

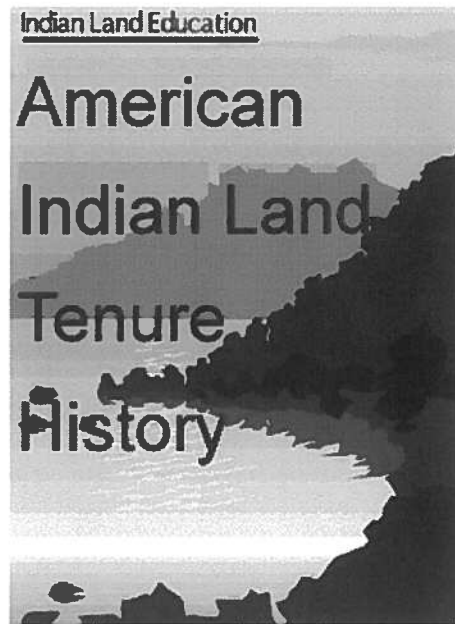
Time:
Two class periods

Core:
Civics/Government



For Grades 2-3

Standard Two – Lesson Four



Background:

When people possess, use, or treasure a place, they are willing to actively work to maintain its integrity. This concept is important to developing a sense of place and belonging. This lesson will begin to prepare students to participate in ensuring the integrity of Indian lands by learning to identify and respect their own and others' property. This lesson will include discussion of land ownership.

Preparation:

- Ask your students to bring a rock to class a day or two before you intend to teach this lesson. The rock should be about the size of the palm of a hand. It can be round, flat or rugged. Encourage them to find a special rock that attracts their attention rather than picking up any old rock. Keep extra rocks on hand for those students who forget to bring their own. (This lesson can also be taught using hard-boiled eggs, seedlings with pots the students decorate, etc.)
- Obtain a plastic tub. This could be any type of plastic storage tub large enough to hold rocks from all of the students. A good cardboard box would also work.
- Photographs of different kinds of land: flat, hilly, near water, in mountains, with trees, without trees, with houses, without houses.
- Obtain enough colored markers for the class.

Student Activity:

- Have the students sit in a circle and hold their rocks. For a few minutes they should look at it closely, feel it, smell it and observe everything they can about it.
- For 30 seconds, have the students close their eyes and feel their rock, turning it over in their hands, rubbing it on their hands, arms or legs.
- After a minute, collect the rocks into a plastic tub and mix them up.

- Have the students close their eyes and keep them closed until told to open them.
- One at a time, hand a rock from the tub to one student who will in turn pass the rock to the student on his/her right. Students are not to speak or make motions.
- Tell them that when they feel their rock come into their hands, they are able to keep it and to place it in their lap. They need to keep their eyes closed and participate in passing the remainder of rocks around the circle.
- When all the rocks have been passed out, have the students open their eyes and observe their rock.
- Ask the students to say if they do in fact have their own rock. If so, have them tell the class why they are certain. Ask how they made their decision. Some students will not have their original rock. This is ok, but ask them to retrieve their own rock.
- Find a windowsill, bookcase, table or floor space against a wall where the children can place their rocks. ("The rock place."). Let them know that they each own a rock and they will need to know where they place their rock.
- Discuss land ownership with the students. Show the students photographs of different kinds of land. Let them know that owning land requires responsibility to know their land and what is on it, just like they know their rock.
- Also explain that owning land requires that they care and respect their land, just like they will care for and respect their rock during this week in class. Explain respect to the students.
- Ask the students to share their thoughts about caring for the land. This can include the responsibilities of owners for their land, as well as the responsibility of everyone for public land such as picking up trash, care of natural plants and habitats. Explain responsibility and habitat.

2nd Class Period

- During the 2nd class period, either later that day or the next day, ask each child to go to the "the rock place" and bring their rock back to their desk. With colored markers have them draw a design on their rock. Ask them to be unique and draw a design they especially like for themselves.
- Again discuss land ownership with them. Explain that over a period of time, land changes, just as their rocks have changed by adding a design. Changes on land could include a new house, a plowed field or fire damage. Land is constantly changing. Explain that as an owner, change will happen, but landowners must still care for and respect their land. Also again explain that each of them should be ever mindful of caring for the land and environment they spend time in.

Evaluation:

- Through discussion, determine if the students understand the concept of land ownership and the responsibilities of caring for the land.
 - Watch to determine if the students can identify their rock from those of other students. Determine if they attach a personal responsibility for knowing and caring for their rock as a piece of the environment.
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Resources:

1. McPhail, David M. Those Terrible Toy-Breakers. New York: Parents Magazine, 1980.