

**Title**

The *Oceti Sakowin* in Present Day Society

**Grade Level**

12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Theme**

Subdividing the *Oceti Sakowin* and arranging the groups onto South Dakota Reservations

**Duration**

4-50 minute class periods

**Goal**

Students will understand how the *Oceti Sakowin* is organized into *oyates* and on tribal reservations.

**Objectives**

1. Students will understand key *Oceti Sakowin* concepts such as order within a camp.
2. Students will be able to subdivide *Oceti Sakowin* into *oyates*.
3. Students will be able to further subdivide *Titonwans* into *oyates*.
4. Students will identify reservations within South Dakota and understand how the various groups fit within them.

**South Dakota Standards**

**9-12.US.2.1.** Students are able to describe the causes and effects of interactions between the U.S. government and Native American cultures.

**Common Core**

**12.R.1.1** Students can interpret the meaning of unfamiliar words by selecting context clues.

**Cultural Concept**

The *Oceti Sakowin* is a complex group of tribes spread across various reservations within South Dakota. The sequence within the camp circle of the *Oceti Sakowin oyates* was determined by rules that were both cosmological and historical in nature. The group with the highest status occupied the place of honor, or *Catku*.

**Cultural Background**

The *Oceti Sakowin* has been divided into seven groups, or *oyates*, that organized themselves around the Midwest. One *oyate*, the *Titonwan* or Lakota, further divided into seven *oyates*. The number seven is significant to the *Oceti Sakowin*. Through treaties with the US government, each *oyate* reserved land for themselves around South Dakota and

surrounding states. They ceded to the federal government the remainder of their original homelands in exchange for certain rights within the treaties.

## **Student Activities**

### *Day 1*

Working with a partner, students will be assigned to an *oyate* of the *Oceti Sakowin*. As they learn how the *Oceti Sakowin* is subdivided, they will learn about each *oyate's* place in the original and current camp circle. They are taught about the order and structure of a camp circle. This includes *oyate* ranking and positioning, axes, and the place of honor (*Catku*). By marking a camp circle on the ground of a gymnasium or other large space, students are able to illustrate the process of entering and exiting a camp circle.

Students should learn how the *oyates* were arranged by birth order (see Attachment III) in the circle and practice entering either 1) by having the *Mdewakantonwan* enter first (as first in birth order) followed by the others in order, or 2) by having them enter by position in the circle with the *Ihanktonwan* entering first and walking all the way around the circle in a sunwise, or clockwise, direction to their position in the NE followed by the *Sisitonwan* and others walking in a line around the circle.

### *Day 2*

The previous day's activity with the camp circle can be duplicated once they learn of the current circle, with the *Titonwan* in the place of honor (see Attachment IV). Then, can be duplicated to illustrate how the *Titonwan* or Lakota is subdivided into seven groups (see Attachment V).

### *Day 3*

Students will now need to be grouped into at least 13 groups: each group from the *Oceti Sakowin* except the *Titowan* plus the seven *oyates* of the *Titowan*. They will then be arranged according to how *oyates* have been organized into the various reservations. Students in some groups (*Mdewakantonwan*, *Ihanktonwanna*, *Sicangu*, and *Sihasapa*) will need to divide and go to corresponding reservation groups to represent how these *oyates* are spread across various reservations. During this activity, they will also learn the official names of the reservations, tribes, and capital cities (Attachment I). Given a SD map, they will arrange themselves in the room or gymnasium according to the location of their reservation. This will be a good opportunity to have a class discussion about how tribes spread to various reservations across the state as well as results and possible repercussions of interactions and treaties with the US government. Students will then be assigned to researching their reservation and presenting during the next class period.

### *Day 4*

Students will give their presentations of the information they discovered while researching their assigned reservation and tribe(s). Assessments can be completed upon conclusion of presentations.

## **Resources**

Attachments I-VI

Maps of South Dakota

Gymnasium or other large space  
Tape or other material to identify outline of camp  
Internet or other resources for students to conduct research

**Assessment**

Post-evaluation

**References**

Buechel, Eugene. (1970). Catku. In *Lakota-English Dictionary* (p. 128). Pine Ridge, South Dakota: Red Cloud Indian School, Inc.

Blunt Horn, John. (1982). Legend of the Camp Circle. In James R. Walker, *Lakota Society* (Raymond J. DeMallie, Ed., pp. 14-18). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

CAIRNS. (2010). Oceti Sakowin: Temporal Order, with Reservation, Tribe, Capital, and Oyate [Diagram and Table].

Herman, Antoine and Walker, James R. (1982). The Seven Council Fires. In James R. Walker, *Lakota Society* (Raymond J. DeMallie, Ed., pp. 14-18). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

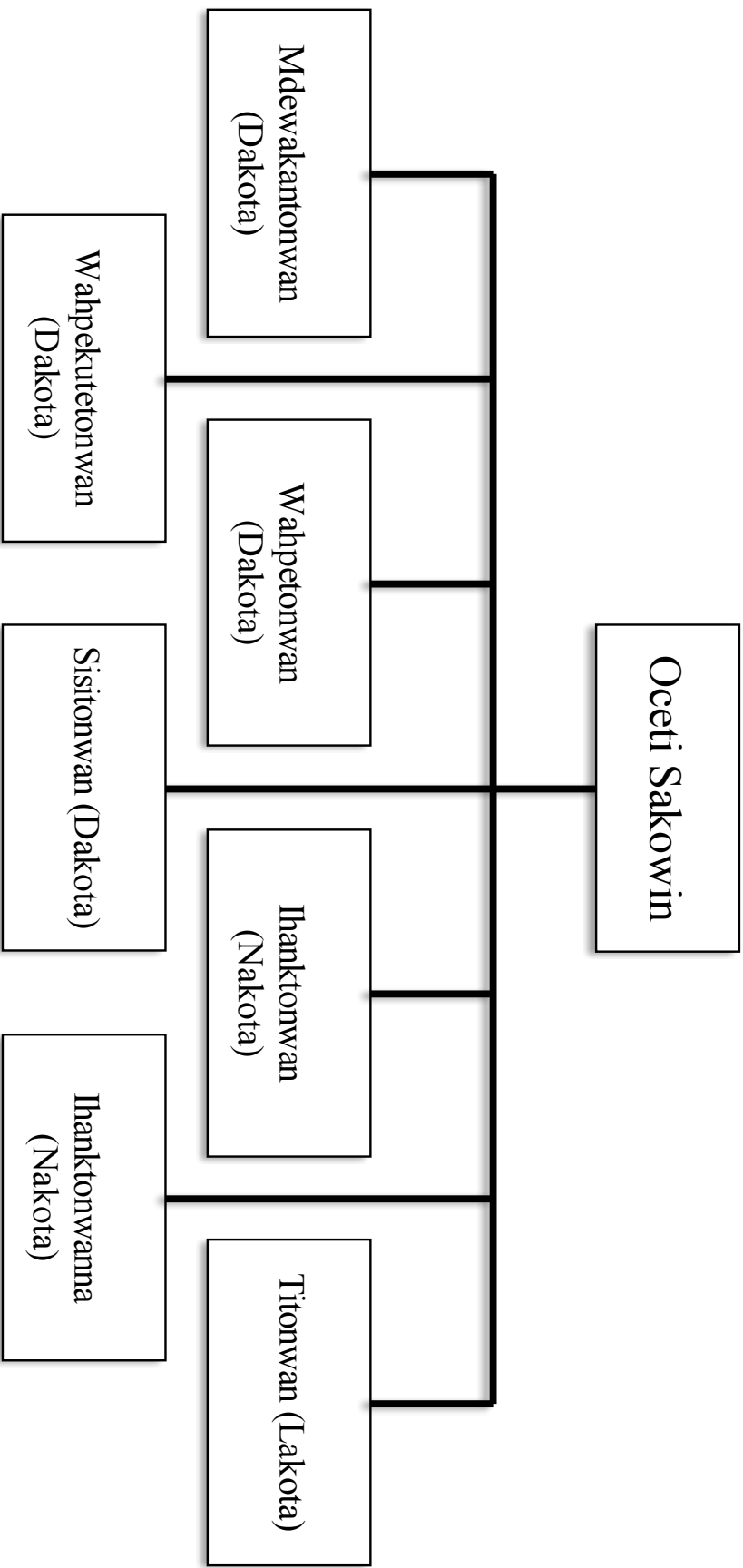
Walker, James R. (1982). Divisions of the Lakotas. In *Lakota Society* (Raymond J. DeMallie, Ed., pp. 18-19). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

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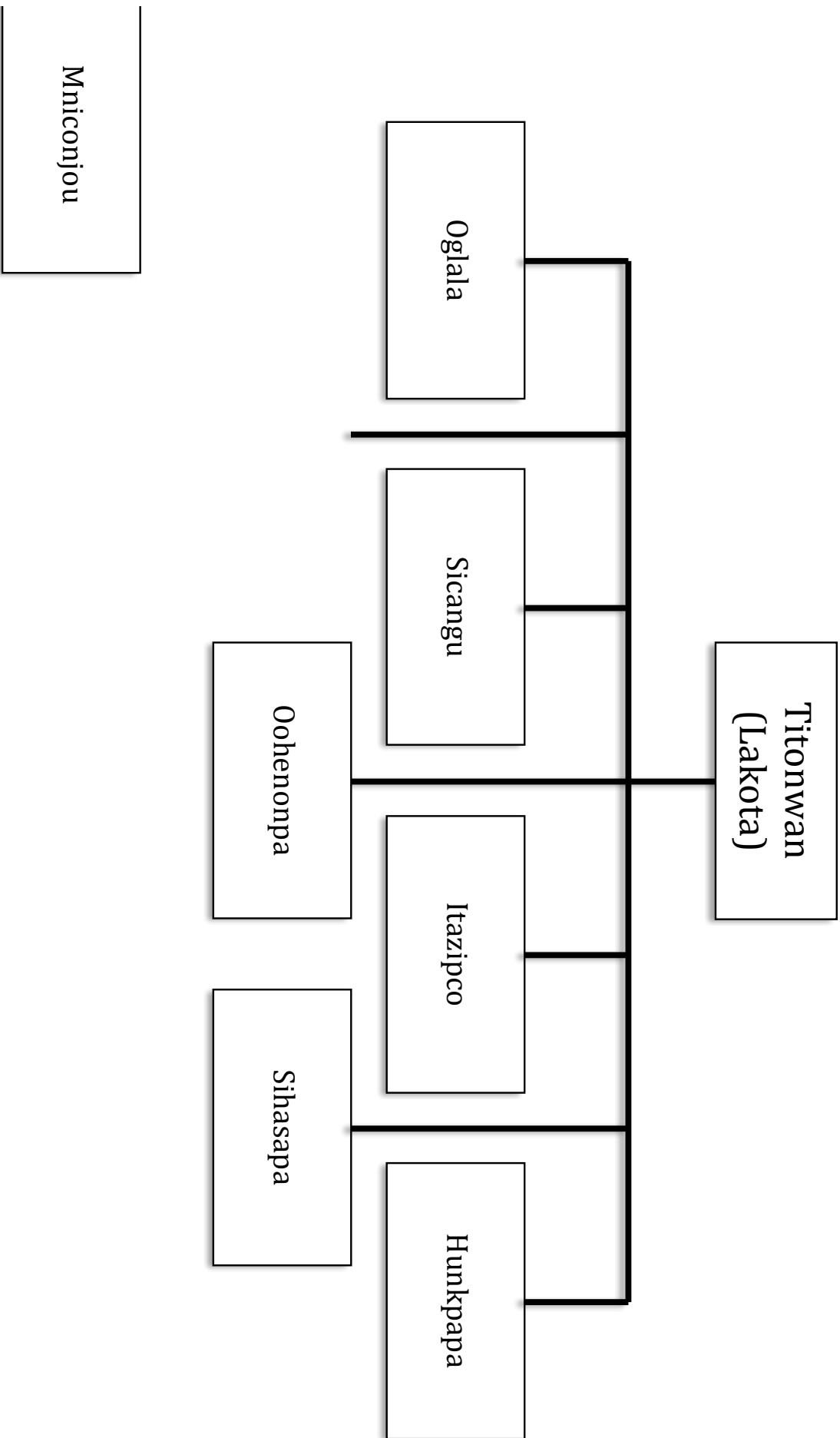
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ATTACHMENT II

**\*\*Oyates arranged left to right by birth order and original camp circle\*\***

ATTACHMENT II



ATTACHMENT II

**\*\*Oyates are arranged left to right by order in camp circle\*\***

ATTACHMENT VI

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Oceti Sakowin** *Answers*

What is the place of honor on the west side of the camp circle called?

*Catku*

Name the 7 oyates of the Oceti Sakowin according to birth order.

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>Mdewakontonwan</i>    | 5. <i>Ihanktonwan</i>   |
| 2. <i>Wahpetonwan</i>       | 6. <i>Ihanktonwanna</i> |
| 3. <i>Wahpekute(tonwan)</i> | 7. <i>Titonwan</i>      |
| 4. <i>Sisitonwan</i>        |                         |

Which oyate of the Oceti Sakowin took the place of honor in the current circle?

*Titonwan*

Name the 7 Oyates of the Lakota division of the Oceti Sakowin.

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <i>Oglala</i>     | 5. <i>Itazipco</i> |
| 2. <i>Minikanzus</i> | 6. <i>Sihasapa</i> |
| 3. <i>Sicangu</i>    | 7. <i>Hunkpapa</i> |
| 4. <i>Oohenonpa</i>  |                    |

Put the number for each tribe name and capital city that corresponds to the reservation name.

<u>9</u> Yankton Sioux Indian	
<u>1</u> Standing Rock	<u>1</u> Standing Rock
<u>2</u> Crow Creek	<u>4</u> Rosebud Sioux
<u>3</u> Flandreau Santee Sioux	<u>8</u> Cheyenne River Sioux
<u>4</u> Rosebud	<u>7</u> Lower Brule Sioux
<u>5</u> Lake Traverse	<u>3</u> Flandreau Santee Sioux
<u>6</u> Pine Ridge	<u>6</u> Oglala Sioux
<u>7</u> Lower Brule	<u>9</u> Yankton Sioux
<u>8</u> Cheyenne River	<u>5</u> Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
	<u>2</u> Crow Creek Sioux
	<u>1</u> Fort Yates
	<u>9</u> Wagner



4 Rosebud

2 Fort Thompson

For a more difficult assessment of reservation, tribe, and capital city names, use this exercise.

Fill out the table with the missing reservation, tribe, and capital city names.

<u>Reservation</u>	<u>Tribe Name</u>	<u>Fort Yates</u>
<u>Standing Rock</u>	<u>Standing Rock Sioux</u>	<u>Fort Thompson</u>
<u>Crow Creek</u>	<u>Crow Creek Sioux</u>	<u>Flandreau</u>
<u>Flandreau Santee Sioux</u>	<u>Flandreau Santee Sioux</u>	<u>Rosebud</u>
<u>Rosebud</u>	<u>Rosebud Sioux</u>	<u>Agency</u>
<u>Lake Traverse</u>	<u>Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate</u>	<u>Village</u>
<u>Pine Ridge</u>	<u>Oglala</u>	<u>Pine Ridge</u>
<u>Lower Brule</u>	<u>Sioux</u>	<u>Lower Brule</u>
<u>Lower Cheyenne</u>	<u>Lower Brule Sioux</u>	<u>Brule</u>
<u>Brule</u>	<u>Cheyenne River Sioux</u>	<u>Eagle</u>
<u>Cheyenne</u>	<u>Yankton</u>	<u>Butte</u>
<u>River</u>	<u>Sioux</u>	<u>Wagner</u>
<u>Yankton Sioux Indian</u>	<u>Capital City</u>	<u></u>

Write a 250 word reflection on what you have learned about the Oceti Sakowin and tribes on South Dakota reservations. Use the space below and attach additional pages as necessary.

Answers will vary.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Oceti Sakowin

What is the place of honor on the west side of the camp circle called?

Name the 7 oyates of the Oceti Sakowin according to birth order.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____    |
| _____    |          |

Which oyate of the Oceti Sakowin took the place of honor in the current circle?

Name the 7 Oyates of the Lakota division of the Oceti Sakowin.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____    |
| _____    |          |

Number each tribe and capital city that corresponds to the reservation.

<u>Reservation</u>	<u>5</u> Lake Traverse	<u>    </u> Rosebud Sioux
<u>1</u> Standing Rock	<u>6</u> Pine Ridge	<u>    </u> Cheyenne River Sioux
<u>2</u> Crow Creek	<u>7</u> Lower Brule	<u>    </u> Lower Brule Sioux
<u>3</u> Flandreau Santee Sioux	<u>8</u> Cheyenne River	
<u>4</u> Rosebud	<u>9</u> Yankton Sioux Indian	
	<u>Tribe Name</u>	

___ Flandreau Santee Sioux	___ Standing Rock Sioux	___ Pine Ridge
___ Oglala Sioux	<u>Capital City</u>	___ Fort Yates
___ Yankton Sioux	___ Agency Village	___ Wagner
___ Sisseton Wahpeton	___ Eagle Butte	___ Rosebud
Oyate	___ Flandreau	___ Fort Thompson
___ Crow Creek Sioux	___ Lower Brule	

Fill out the table with the missing reservation, tribe, and capital city names.

<u>Reservation</u>	<u>Tribe Name</u>	<u>Capital City</u>
_____	_____	Fort Yates
Crow Creek	_____	_____
_____	_____	Flandreau
_____	_____	_____
_____	Rosebud Sioux	_____
Lake Traverse	_____	_____
_____	_____	Pine Ridge
_____	_____	_____
_____	Lower Brule Sioux	_____
_____	Cheyenne River Sioux	_____
_____	_____	_____
Yankton Sioux Indian	_____	_____

Write a 250 word reflection on what you have learned about the Oceti Sakowin and tribes on South Dakota reservations. Use the space below and attach additional pages as necessary.