

Title

Priceless Places: The Purchase of Pe Sla

Grade Level

Elementary School, 2nd Grade

Theme

Understanding the importance of sacred places.

Duration

1-2 Days

Goal

Students will use critical thinking skills to form and defend an opinion about the purchase price of Pe Sla.

Objectives

Students will:

- Ask and answer questions such as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* about photographs.
- Infer and describe how the subjects of the photographs respond to a major event (The Dakota 38 Ride).
- Participate respectfully in class discussions.
- Ask for and provide evidence for their statements in the discussion.

South Dakota Standards

Reading: RL.2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
RI.2.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.

Speaking and Listening:

SL.2.1A Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).

SL.2.1B Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their comments to the remarks of others.

SL.2.1C Ask for clarification and further explanation as needed about the topics and texts under discussion.

Social Studies: E.1.2 Students are able to explain the importance of making informed decisions about spending, borrowing, and saving.
2.US 1.1 Students are able to place important historical events in the order in which they occurred.

Cultural Concept

Certain places in nature are sacred in *Oceti Sakowin* culture.

Cultural Background

Pe Sla is talked about in the book Passages Through Many Worlds: Historic Resource Study of Wind Cave National Park. The first observations of the area by white men in the 1870s and evidence of a medicine lodge and elk horns was found. These are items which have spiritual significance in Lakota culture. So from the earliest knowledge of white men, this area has shown

evidence of being a sacred site. Additionally, in the legends of Red-Cheeked Woman, Star Man and Fallen Star, Pe Sla is thought to be the place where Red-Cheeked Woman fell and Fallen Star was born.

Student Activities

1. Teacher and student will discuss what the word “sacred” means and teacher will introduce the Lakota word *wakan* meaning holy or sacred.
2. Teacher will tell the stories: Red-Cheeked Woman and Star Man and Fallen Star and the Bear Lodge.
3. Teacher will show an aerial view of the Black Hills and point out the bare area, Pe Sla. Teacher will explain that it is thought to be the place where Falling Star was born and ceremonies have taken place there since long ago.
4. Teacher will pose the question, “What if someone took that place away from you. What would you do?”
5. Students will pair-share and report back to the class. Teacher will then share that Pe Sla (and the Black Hills) actually was taken away from the Lakotas in 1877 and that recently they were able to buy back a section of Pe Sla in 2012 for 9 million dollars.
6. Students will share their opinion on the following question: Was Pe Sla worth the price of 9 million dollars? Why or why not?
7. Teacher will close by reinforcing the fact that because Pe Sla is a sacred (*wakan*) place, it was indeed worth the price to the *Oceti Sakowin*.

Resources

1. Copy of Tender Reverence pamphlet from CAIRNS
2. Google map view of the Black Hills (showing Pe Sla)
3. SmartBoard (or other medium to show media).

Assessment

Participation in discussions and informal observation.

References

- CAIRNS. (2014). Pe Sla [Map]. Based on *Map of Boundary Survey* from Rosebud Sioux Tribe Sicangu Oyate Land Office. Heald Land Surveying, 18 October 2012.
- CAIRNS. (2014). *Tender Reverence: Explorations of the Lakota Universe*. : Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies.
- Spence, Mark D. (2011). The Central Praries: Slate, Gilette, and Reynolds [excerpt]. In *Passages Through Many Worlds: Historic Resource Study of Wind Cave National Park* (p. 490-92). Omaha, NE: United States Department of the Interior National Park Service.

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