Title
The *Oceti Sakowin* in Present Day Society

Grade Level
12th 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**


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


**Developer**
Jameson Berreth
jameztb09@hotmail.com

**Date**
28 June 2012
**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. *Mdewakontonwan*  
2. *Wahpetonwan*  
3. *Wahpekute(tonwan)*  
4. *Sisitonwan*  
5. *Ihanktonwan*  
6. *Ihanktonwanna*  
7. *Titonwan*

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. *Oglala*  
2. *Minikanzus*  
3. *Sicangu*  
4. *Oohenonpa*  
5. *Itazipco*  
6. *Sihasapa*  
7. *Hunkpapa*

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservation</th>
<th>Tribe Name</th>
<th>Capital City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1__ Standing Rock</td>
<td>4__ Rosebud Sioux</td>
<td>5__ Standing Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2__ Crow Creek</td>
<td>8__ Cheyenne River Sioux</td>
<td>1__ Standing Rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3__ Flandreau Santee Sioux</td>
<td>7__ Lower Brule Sioux</td>
<td>5__ Agency Village</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4__ Rosebud</td>
<td>3__ Flandreau Santee Sioux</td>
<td>3__ Flandreau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5__ Lake Traverse</td>
<td>6__ Oglala Sioux</td>
<td>7__ Lower Brule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6__ Pine Ridge</td>
<td>9__ Yankton Sioux</td>
<td>6__ Pine Ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7__ Lower Brule</td>
<td>5__ Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate</td>
<td>1__ Fort Yates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8__ Cheyenne River</td>
<td>2__ Crow Creek Sioux</td>
<td>9__ Wagner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Reservation</th>
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<th>Fort Yates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rosebud</td>
<td>Standing Rock Sioux</td>
<td>Fort Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crow Creek Sioux</td>
<td>Rosebud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flandreau Santee Sioux</td>
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<td>Pine Ridge</td>
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<td>Oglala</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Cheyenne River Sioux</td>
<td>Lower Brule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yankton</td>
<td>Eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yankton Sioux Indian</td>
<td>Butte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capital City</td>
<td>Wagner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

Reservation  5. Lake Traverse  9. Yankton Sioux Indian Tribe Name
  2. Crow Creek  7. Lower Brule  Cheyenne River Sioux
  3. Flandreau Santee Sioux  8. Cheyenne River  Lower Brule Sioux
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<td>Rosebud</td>
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<td>Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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