Title
Understanding How History and Geography Affected the Dakota Culture:
How we develop identity through geographical location and knowledge of family
organization, and history.

Grade Level
Grades 9-12.

Theme of the lesson plan:
The theme of this lesson plan is to allow the students to develop a connection between the
land and the people. How these connections were and are important to the Native people
is one of our main goal. How the effects of being displaced from a homeland contributes
to the sense of loss which can continue if the loss of land is not grieved.

Duration
This lesson plan will last for one day, unless more time is required by the subject at hand,
and there will be eighteen lesson plans for this subject.

Goal
• Students will learn the importance of connections to land and other tribal and family
groups.
• Students will learn about their history and how they came to the state of South
Dakota.
• Students will learn about how their history affects their lives today.
• Students will also learn how to survive in two worlds and the difference between
worlds and world views.
• To become more aware of how geography affects their lives.
• To have the student value the reservations as land which still remains as a part of the
larger nation that has been lost. Home lands!

Objectives
• Students will be able to locate their most original home land.
• Students will be able to understand the effects of social dominance in our society.
• Students will be able to understand the family structure of the Dakota Oyate.
• Students will be able to recognize social differences, racism, oppression, and how to
deal with the issues involved.

South Dakota Standards
Standard: SA6 – Multiple programs and pathways will support improved student
achievement across the curriculum. (Sioux Falls school district standard.

Cultural Concept
Students will understand the importance of their tribes (cultures) and its organization and
family structure, and how their culture and lives have been affected by laws and federal
policy.

Cultural Background
Students who are of Native descent often times do not know their history. This lesson
plan will give them a connection to the land, where their ancestors lived, the reason for
the dislocation, and the outcome of that displacement. The students will know their major
losses through historical narrative that is not taught in most public education institutions. This is only one part of a history that is invisible to most students and teachers.

Student Activities
View relevant DVD’s to gain understanding of cultural values and geographical locations for the Dakota and Lakota people. To also understand the progression of laws, both state and federal, that have had an impact on Native people. To also incorporate ceremonial and tribal customs that are important for the students to know and carry on into the future.

Resources
• Use of DVD’s- *In the light of reverence, The Canary Effect, In the image of the white man, Our spirits don’t speak English. “Oceta Sakowin.”*
• Books about Lakota and/or Dakota cultures.
• Use of language and translations for students to use, understand and incorporate into their daily lives.

Assessment
Interest shown by students, and the use of weekly quizzes to evaluate progress.

References
N/A.

Developer
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