Grades: 9th - 12th Grade
Lesson: 5
Unit: 2: American Indian land tenure history
Subject: History/Social Studies
Achievement Goal: Describe, in one’s own words, the impact colonization had on U.S. Indian tribes and the Native land base.
Time: One class period

Lesson Description:
Students work through web-based lessons to investigate the cumulative effects of colonization, U.S. federal Indian policy, and land loss, as well as tribal strategies for cultural preservation and political resurgence.

Teacher Background:
This lesson concludes this unit and summarizes this series of land tenure history lessons. This lesson uses part of a brief lesson plan from the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute that illustrates the destructive nature of U.S. federal Indian policy on Indian populations and land. This lesson also uses part of the PBS lesson plan, “Culture in Crisis,” which focuses on how land loss and colonization affected tribal culture.

The contents of this lesson should impart to students the importance of land for tribal strength and member well-being, as well as encourage thoughts about effective land-based strategies of cultural preservation and political resurgence.

Teacher Preparation Resources:

- Review the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute’s (NIARI) lesson plan “Colonization Effects from First Encounter through US Federal Policy” listed in the Lesson Resources section.
- Download or copy the Federal Policy Activity: “American Indian decimation by disease, violence, genocide, and federal policy” and the “First Encounters Quotes,” also both listed in the Lesson Resources section.
- Review the PBS lesson plan “Culture in Crisis” focusing on the cultural disruption of the Haudenosaunee in the 18th and 19th centuries. Copy the lesson plan, or make available electronically, so that students may read and examine the quotes.

Student Activity:

1. To help students put the effects of colonization on American Indians in perspective, follow the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute’s “Federal Policy Activity” in class from the lesson plan listed in the Lesson Resources section.
2. Have the students read the quotes of several Haudenosaunee scholars in the “Culture and Crisis” lesson plan (also found in the Lesson Resources section).
3. Initiate a student discussion about how colonization and dispossession affected tribal culture of the Haudenosaunee and other Native North American groups generally. Instruct them to think about the ties between culture and having a “space” for cultural instruction, preservation and expression. How can land tenure inform effective strategies of cultural preservation?

Evaluation:
During the class discussion assess the students understanding of the impact that colonization had on U.S. Indian tribes and the Native land base.

Lesson Resources:

- Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute Culturally Responsive Curriculum for Secondary Education lesson plan
- PBS lesson plan Culture in Crisis
Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute’s (NIARI)
- Lesson Plan: Colonization Effects from First Encounter through US Federal Policy
- Federal Policy Activity: “American Indian decimation by disease, violence, genocide, and federal policy”
- First Encounters Quotes

Source URL: http://www.lessonsofourland.org/lessons/impacts-colonization

Links:
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