

Investigate Modern Issues



The sovereignty of Native Americans is not an archaic past tense problem. For the Native Nations of the US there are still many aspects of their sovereignty and treaties that are real and modern problems. Relying on historical documents to understand indigenous groups today is like relying on a grandparent's journal to understand the needs and concerns of their descendants. Perusing the news that is reported by Native Americans and/or for Native Americans helps us to see the modern complexities of sovereignty and landownership that are still being discussed and disputed today.

Grade Level	7th-12th Grade
Activity Length	1 15-20 minute introduction class 1 35-50 minute sharing and discussion time
Materials	Attached Resource page and Worksheet

Standards:

Reading Literacy Standard 1 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

UT Standard 1.5 Students will describe the cultural change and continuity of at least one of Utah's current sovereign nations as it has responded to changing political, social, and economic forces. Students will use a variety of resources that may include written primary and secondary sources, oral histories, photographs, artifacts, and art. (economics, civics)

UT Standard 4.4 Students will identify the civil rights objectives held by various groups, assess the strategies used, and evaluate the success of the various civil rights movements in reaching their objectives, paying specific attention to American Indian, women, and other racial and ethnic minorities.

U.S. II Standard 4.3 Students will use data and other evidence related to a cultural, ethnic, or religious group in Utah to interpret the group's historic/current conditions and experiences. (history, geography)



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Current events in news articles express the current concerns and issues of groups of people often in a similar country, city, or particular region. When we seek out and consume news for personal consumption (either in print, on tv, or online) we are usually looking for what issues matter to ourselves or our community. However, seeking out diverse news sources can help us better understand other groups of people and their current concerns.

While sovereign states within US territory have many of the same concerns and current issues to address as the rest of the country they also have governmental, political, and even land ownership issues that differ from what the mainstream media may choose to report on. Often, because it is overlooked by mainstream news outlets, these sovereign government systems can seem non-existent. Even the impact the US government and its legislation has on them can seem completely resolved and undisputed. But, the sovereign concerns of the past have not disappeared and analyzing current events reported by and for Indigenous groups can help us to better understand where the modern conflicts of sovereignty, treaties, and land ownership may still exist.

Lesson Protocol:

- 1.** Create a list of current events reported in the news that your students find important to them. Ask: Do you think everyone agrees on what's important to report on or would there be differences in relevancy? What would affect what someone views as relevant news? Report their answers on the board.
- 2.** Give the students the attached list of resource outlets that are hosted by Native American groups or tribes. You may decide to give them limited options or the entire list.
- 3.** Invite them to find an article of their choice to review on a current event relevant to a Utah tribal group. You may choose to limit their focus on articles around reservation politics/elections, sovereignty, or even treaty issues. Have them fill out the attached worksheet with their analysis of the article.
- 4.** Have the students give their reactions to the current issue they read about using the worksheet part B.
- 5.** Ask the students if the topic they discovered might be addressed by other more mainstream news outlets. Have them investigate other local and national news outlets to try and find any mention of the current issue. If they find any have them assess the new article and compare/contrast using part C of the worksheet.
- 6.** If the students did not find any articles in the national or local news sources on the same topic ask them to give a brief explanation of why they think it's not found in other news sources.
- 7.** Have the students share out their findings and discuss together the modern concerns of sovereign groups and how they see the US government impacting the current issues they read about.



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Investigate Modern Issues Resources



The sovereignty of Native Americans is not an archaic past tense problem. For the sovereign nations of the US there are still many aspects of their sovereignty and treaties that are real and modern problems. Look through the list of native news sources below. Find an article focusing on the current events of one of Utah's 8 sovereign tribes (Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Navajo Nation, Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, San Juan Southern Paiute, Skull Valley Band of Goshute, White Mesa Community of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Ute Indian Tribe.) Review and write about the article using the worksheet provided.

National Indigenous resources:

Indian Country Today- <https://indiancountrytoday.com/>

National Indian Law Library- <https://narf.org/nill/bulletins/news/currentnews.html>

Native News Online- <https://nativenewsonline.net/>

Indianz- <https://www.indianz.com/>

Native American Heritage Month Home Page- <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>

Restoring Ancestral Winds Nonprofit Organization's Website- <https://restoringawcoalition.org/>

Indigenous Environmental Network Nonprofit Organization's Website- <https://www.ienearth.org/>

Local Utah Native Nation resources:

Navajo Times- <https://navajotimes.com/>

Southern Ute Tribe Website- <https://www.southernute-nsn.gov/news/>

Southern Ute Drum- <https://www.sudrum.com/>

Paiute Indian Tribe Website- <https://www.utahpaiutes.org/>

Ute Indian Tribe Website- <http://www.utetribe.com/>

Goshute Tribe Website- <https://www.ctgr.us/>

Utah Division of Indian Affairs Website- <https://indian.utah.gov/>

Diné Bikéyah Nonprofit Organization's Website- <https://utahdinebikeyah.org/>

The Ute Indian Tribe PAC Website- <https://utepac.com/>

Navajo Hopi Observer- <https://www.nhnews.com/>



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Part A: Article 1 Content

Find an article to review and answer the following questions about it.

- News source
- Section found? (news, business, opinion, events, etc.)
- Date
- Article headline
- Author (any additional relevant information about author?)
- What tribe or sovereign group is this article about?
- What do you already know about this topic?
- Brief description of the articles content (4-5 sentences on who, what, where, when, why, and how)
- What and/or who is impacted by this?

Part B: Personal Reaction

Record your reactions to the article.

- Why did you choose this article?
- Does the information in this article affect you? If so, how?
- Why do you think this issue is being reported on? Who is it relevant to?
- What did you learn about the tribe and/or reservation that you did not know beforehand?
- How do you think the US government impacts this tribal issue?
- How do you think the US government has/or could address this tribal issue?
- Do you have other questions about the topic or the tribe?



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Part C: Compare/Contrast Articles

Go looking in more mainstream media outlets to see if there's any references to the topic your first Article is about. Answer the following questions

- Have you found this topic being reported in other local or national news sources? Yes/No
If no, why do you think it is not reported in any other local or national news sources?

If yes, provide the following information for the new article:

- News source
- News section/web tab information found on? (news, business, opinion, events, etc.)
- Date
- Article headline
- Author (any additional relevant information about author?)
- Brief description of the articles content (4-5 sentences on who, what, where, when, why, and how)
- Is there any additional information reported in one article that is not reported in the other? If yes, what?
- Describe what is different/similar between the two articles (content, depth of content, interviews, viewpoints, style of writing, etc.)



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