

Native American tribe in Maine buys back island taken 160 years ago

Level: Elementary – Teacher’s notes

Article summary: The news of how a Native American tribe was recently able to buy back an island they had lived on for thousands of years before being evicted by white settlers

Time: 90 minutes+

Skills: Reading, Speaking, Writing

Language focus: Vocabulary

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

Key:

1. *acre*
2. *caretaker*
3. *grave*
4. *disease*
5. *goal*
6. *charity*
7. *protect*
8. *massacre*
9. *stolen*
10. *ancestor*

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

1. Warmer

- a. In pairs, or in a short group discussion, students match the indigenous groups and peoples with their countries.

Key:

1. *d*
2. *f*
3. *e*
4. *g*
5. *b*
6. *h*
7. *c*
8. *a*

After checking the answers, ask them to name a few others that they know of.

2. Key words

- a. Students write the words from the wordpools next to the definitions on the lines provided. Then they should find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

Key:

1. *goal*
2. *stolen*
3. *acres*
4. *ancestor(s)*
5. *protect*

3. Comprehension

- a. Students find information in the article to complete the box.

Key:

three names for the island	<i>Pine Island, White’s Island, Kuwesuwi Monihq</i>
where it is	<i>in Big Lake in Maine, in the United States</i>
its size	<i>143 acres</i>
who’ owns’ it now	<i>the Passamaquoddy Native American Tribe</i>
how much they paid for it	<i>\$355,000</i>
who helped them buy it back	<i>a charity called First Light</i>

Native American tribe in Maine buys back island taken 160 years ago

Level: Elementary – Teacher’s notes

4. Large numbers

- a. Students write the numbers from the article out in words. This will help them learn how to say the numbers correctly for the next part of this task. Point out that when they write an amount of money that the currency symbol comes before the number, but that when they say it out loud, the currency is said after the number.

Key:

1. *ten thousand*
2. *forty-three*
3. *one hundred and sixty*
4. *three thousand, seven hundred*
5. *three hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars*

- b. Now they use them in spoken or written sentences about the article.

5. Discussion

- a. Students look up where the island is, watch a video if possible, and discuss a quote from the article.

6. In your own words

- a. Students guess how many Native American tribes there are in the US.

Key: 562

- b. Working with a partner or in groups of three or four, students choose one of the (more well-known of the) 562 groups of Native American indigenous people, find out about it, write a few interesting facts about it, and write them into the table.
- c. Have students read what they have written to the rest of the group. If possible, encourage them to look for photos or videos on their smartphones to accompany their short presentation.