

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

Level: Intermediate – 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. *shoreline*
2. *caretaker*
3. *settlers*
4. *goal*
5. *duty*
6. *massacre*
7. *demanding*
8. *significant*
9. *diseases*
10. *ancestors*

- 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 find words in the article that match the definitions and write them on the lines provided. Then they should find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

Key:

1. *goal*
2. *demanding*
3. *shoreline*
4. *ancestors*
5. *duty*

3. Find the information

- a. Students find information in the article to answer the questions.

Key:

1. *Pine Island, White's Island, Kuwesuwi Monihq*
2. *in Big Lake in Maine, in the United States*
3. *143 acres*
4. *the Passamaquoddy Native American Tribe*
5. *\$355,000*
6. *Their bid was funded by an ecological charitable group named First Light.*
7. *at least ten thousand years*
8. *It contains the burial site of many of their ancestors.*

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4. Expressions

- a. Students look for expressions in the article.

Key:

1. *estate agent*
2. *in fact*
3. *cultural apartheid*
4. *for the good of humanity*
5. *came to their rescue*

- b. Next, they use them to complete sentences about the article.

Key:

1. *in fact*
2. *came to their rescue*
3. *estate agent*
4. *cultural apartheid*
5. *for the good of humanity*

5. Discussion

- a-c Students look up where the island is, watch a video, 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, and research it so that they can hold an interesting and informative three-minute presentation in front of the rest of the students. Optionally, if you have a multinational class, you can encourage your students to choose an indigenous group from their country and make a presentation about it.