

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

Level: Advanced – 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. *rugged*
2. *devastating*
3. *grant*
4. *colonialist*
5. *treaty*
6. *census*
7. *territory*
8. *catalyst*
9. *atrocities*
10. *compensation*
11. *bid*
12. *self-sacrifice*

- a. 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.

Key:

1. *catalyst*
2. *bid*
3. *compensation*
4. *devastating*
5. *atrocities*
6. *granted*

1. Warmer

- a. In pairs, or small groups, students match the indigenous groups 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 any others that they know of.

2. Key words

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

Tip: ask them to read out their answers, and listen to each other do so, so that you can check and correct the pronunciation and stress patterns of the key words.

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.*

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

Level: Advanced – Teacher's notes

4. Expressions

- a. Students look for expressions in the article.

Key:

1. *paint an idyllic picture*
2. *white settlers*
3. *void a treaty*
4. *set foot on*
5. *Indian township reservation*
6. *cultural apartheid*
7. *open to dialogue*
8. *for the good of humanity*
9. *deep pockets*
10. *step in*

- b. Next, they use them in sentences about the article.
- c. Then they use them in sentences of their own that are not related to the article.

5. Discussion

- a. a-d Students look up where the island is, look for photos and videos of it and discuss a quote from the article. If possible, look for videos before the class that you could show to the students or suggest they watch in their groups.

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, 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 five-minute presentation in front of the rest of the students.

7. Extra reading and extension

- a. Have students brainstorm any important local laws that regulate the rights of indigenous peoples. Then, have them follow the instructions in small groups.
- b. Ask the class if they know any international laws that regulate the rights of indigenous peoples. When they mention any, for example, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ask them what they know about it. Then, have students work in groups and look for relevant information and discuss the questions.

Note that it is advisable that you make sure you research the relevant information before the class. You can also prepare useful links and pages to give to students in order to cut the time they spend browsing the internet in the class.

If you have a multinational class, you could ask students to compare the relevant US federal laws such as Native American Law or United States federal Indian law and policy to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or The American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.