

SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE 6

Pre-Emption Certificates & Treaties



BIG IDEA: ECONOMIC SELF-INTEREST CAN BE A SIGNIFICANT CAUSE OF CONFLICT AMONG PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS.

COMPETENCY: USE SOCIAL STUDIES INQUIRY PROCESSES TO-ASK QUESTIONS; GATHER, INTERPRET AND ANALYZE IDEAS; AND COMMUNICATE FINDINGS AND DECISIONS.

CONTENT: ECONOMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING EFFECTS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

ACTIVITIES TO CREATE INQUIRY:

1. STUDENTS CAN EXAMINE A PRE-EMPTION CERTIFICATE AS CONTEXT FOR DISCUSSION.
2. A DISCUSSION ON THE LOSS OF INDIGENOUS LANDS IN B.C. TO FOLLOW. DID THE B.C. GOVERNMENT HAVE THE RIGHT TO GIVE AWAY INDIGENOUS LAND WITH NO TREATY IN PLACE?

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:
HOW TO ANALYZE AND DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF THE LOSS OF INDIGENOUS LANDS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

FURTHER INQUIRY:
FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS:
1. LAKE COUNTRY MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES.
2. SNCEWIPS MUSEUM.



We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the Lake Country Museum is situated, where this lesson was developed, is on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.

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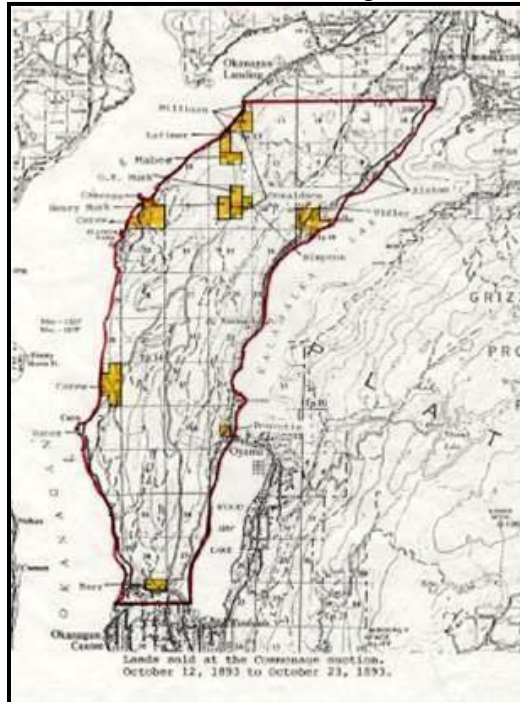
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Social Studies Grade 6: Pre-emption Certificates & Treaties

Learning Experience
Students can examine a primary source document (pre-emption certificate) and hold a discussion on the impact of the loss of Indigenous lands in B.C.

Objective	Students will further their knowledge about the loss of Indigenous lands in B.C. to the government through the use of pre-emption certificates that were issued to settlers.
Historical Reading	<p>The Commonage</p> <p>The word ‘Commonage’ was derived from the contraction of ‘Common’ and ‘Pasturage’, meaning common pasturage. This means "... a large tract of land set aside for grazing purposes".</p> <p>Many European settlers were arriving in the Okanagan Valley. It was important to provide both the settlers and the Syilx people a place to pasture their livestock. The Commonage area was, at that time, the vacant land available in the area. The area of the land planned for the Commonage was 25,114 acres. It extended from Okanagan Lake to Long Lake (Kalamalka and Wood lakes), north to today’s boundary of Vernon, and south to Okanagan Centre.</p> <p>On May 8, 1876 an agreement was made that the Commonage was to be reserved from pre-emption for the use of the Syilx people and the settlers for pastureland. This agreement was signed by Indian Reserve Commissioner A. C. Anderson; Dominion Commissioner Archibald McKinley, Commissioner for British Columbia; and Joint Commissioner G. M. Sproat.</p> <p>However, in 1889, a new agreement was reached between British Columbia’s Chief Commissioner of Land and Works and P.</p>

O'Reilly and the Indian Reserve Commissioner. The new agreement stated that the provincial government would take over the Commonage and in return it would establish an Indian Reserve on the west side of Okanagan Lake.



LCMA

Map of lands sold at the Commonage auction, 1893. Reproduced from LCMA manuscript North- ern Okanagan Commonage

Activity

Pre-emption Certificate Examination & Discussion

Pre-emption Certificates

Have students examine the following: *Thomas Wood Crown land grant document*, *Jeremiah Clark pre-emption record*, *Thomas Simpson pre-emption record*, and the *British Columbia Crown Land Pre-emption Registers, 1860-1971*: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2053657>

	<p><i>Nation, most First Nations had to wait until 1993 to pursue their aboriginal rights through the BC treaty process.</i></p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p>Field Trip Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sncewips Museum ● Lake Country Museum and Archives (The Lake Country Museum and Archives) <p>The Museum has a wide range of exhibits and activities for your class to take advantage of. There may be the opportunity for a guest lecturer to visit your classroom or be present at the museum with the knowledge of more local history stories. If interested, please contact the Museum ahead of time.</p> <p>Suggested Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LCMA website resources: <i>Northern Okanagan Commonage, History Index</i> ● Okanagan Nation Alliance website: www.syilx.org (map of traditional Syilx territory) ● <i>Where the Grass is Always Browner on the Other Side of the Fence: A History of the Okanagan Common- age</i> by, Dr. D. John Price ● <i>British Columbia Crown Land Pre-emption Registers, 1860-1971:</i> https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2053657 ● Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada - <i>Kids' Stop:</i> https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca ● BC Treaty Commission: http://www.bctreaty.net/ ● BC Archives Research Guide: <i>Pre-emption and homestead claims</i>