

Curriculum Unit

Title

Identity Crisis: Are Indians, American?

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KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.

- One’s identity is determined by a variety of factors including: culture, ethnicity, skills and abilities, physical traits and attributes, genders occupation, beliefs and hobbies.
- American identity is fluid; after all our nation is known as ‘The Melting Pot’ because of its fusion of nationalities, ethnicities, and cultures.
- Native Americans were often forced to conform to an ‘American Identity’.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT

- What does it mean to be an American? How does your definition relate to others in the classroom? Others in the country?
- Have Indians been open to assimilate and become ‘American’? Were they forced to become ‘American’?
- What are examples of how Indians fit into your definition of an American throughout the nine Historical Periods we studied? How do they not fit?

CONCEPT A

American Identity

CONCEPT B

Assimilation

CONCEPT C

American Indians

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A

- What does it mean to be an American?
- When was America founded? In 1776? In 1492? Or sometime before?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B

- What is assimilation?
- How has the process of assimilation impacted indigenous peoples?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C

- Are Indians, American?
- How are Native Americans represented in mainstream society?
- Are issues facing the Native American population being addressed by the government?

VOCABULARY A

- Identity
- American Identity
- Nation
- Tribe

VOCABULARY B

- Assimilation
- Dawes Severalty Act
- Indian Residential Schools
- Reservation

VOCABULARY C

- Citizenship
- Scapegoat
- Social Justice

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

PBS Documentaries – In the White Man’s Image/ Trail of Tears: We Shall Remain -- America through Native Eyes