How do you Shrink Land?

The Allotment Act of 1887 and Cultural Interactions

In 1871, Congress passed a law of dubious constitutionality that declared an end to the so-called “Treaty era”. Congress thus began the modern period of unilaterally imposing conditions on the Tribal Nations, which lawyers and the courts have called the “plenary power of Congress” (plenary meaning, “complete”). This period saw the end of open hostilities between Tribes and the U.S. Government and the end of the “wilderness”, as Europeans thought of those lands within North America that were not yet colonized, but it also saw Tribes and their members become almost totally dependent on the United States government for basic necessities. In this 63 year period, ending in 1934, more than 90 millions of acres of land guaranteed to the Tribes in treaties were taken from Tribes by the United States and by others—and given to white settlers, to the federal government, to the states, or to business interests (primarily the railroad). Tribal members also became citizens of the United States during this period.

By Tom Disselhorst, Professor & Attorney for United Tribes Technical College

Inside this issue:

Level 1
Students complete a word search
time commitment: one hour

Level 2
Students identify and classify quotes from
time commitment: two hours

Level 3
Students synthesize information from several articles in a graphic organizer
time commitment: five to seven hours

How does this tie-in with your curriculum?

US History Unit: Industrialization & the Emergence of the United States as a World Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Cultural Interactions CBA requires students to</th>
<th>Resources in this unit that may be helpful</th>
<th>GLEs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State a position on why a cultural group fared better in one region over another.</td>
<td>Level 1: Background Level 2: Credible Sources (Direct Quotes and Academic Article)</td>
<td>5.4.1, 2.4.1, 3.2.3, 4.2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide reasons for your position</td>
<td>Level 3: Comparison of economic, political, and social conditions of a local tribe</td>
<td>2.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tribal Sovereignty
Objectives in this unit:
- Recognize landmark legislation that affected and continues to affect tribal sovereignty *
- Understand that tribal sovereignty enables tribes to protect their ways of life and the development of their nations

*paraphrased