

Class: U. S. History (Grade 11, College Prep)

Unit: The West 1860-1900

Standards: Massachusetts Curriculum Framework: Industrial America and Its Emerging Role in International Affairs, 1870-1920. USII.4: Analyze the causes of the continuing westward expansion of the American people after the Civil War and the impact of migration on the Indians. (History)

Topic: The Dawes Act and the Indian Way of Life

Purpose: For students to understand federal government policy toward the Indians by the late 1880s and its impact on traditional Indian way of life.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will access prior knowledge about traditional Indian way of life.
2. Students will understand federal government policy toward the Indians, specifically the key provisions of the Dawes Act, and its impact.

Schedule:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
10 min.	Teacher-led discussion of traditional Indian way of life and values. Students are asked to access prior knowledge about the traditional Indian concepts of: religion, family, land ownership, nature, money.
15 min.	Students read the Dawes Act of 1887 (Hurtado, Chap. 11, Doc. 1) and are told to keep in mind what was discussed as they read.
10-15 min.	Students are placed in groups of four to discuss the following question: What portions of the law seem to be in direct conflict with traditional Indian way of life and values? Students list areas of conflict in their notebooks.
10 min.	All-class discussion. Groups are called on to each explain one area of conflict. Final question: What was the overall goal of the Dawes Act? (Eliminate Indian culture, force assimilation, “civilized” behavior)
5 min.	Homework is assigned and explained (under assessment).

Assessment:

1. Homework paragraph: Do you think the Dawes Act was reasonable or could the government have handled the situation differently? Explain.
2. Dawes Act is covered in unit test.
3. Teacher checks for understanding by observing groups and calling on groups during all-class discussion.

Reference:

Albert Hurtado and Peter Iverson, Eds., *Major Problems in American Indian History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001) p. 348-351.

Materials:

Handout: *The General Allotment Act (Dawes Act), 1887* (Hurtado, p. 349-351).
notebook