

Manifest Destiny

Code: MID: LA, LS, SS,

Goals/Objectives:

1. By viewing the video, students will gain an awareness of the effects of the various human activities (Manifest Destiny) the white people had on the Nez Perce and their traditional life-styles. They will also learn that there is an environmental human cost to the effects of manifest destiny.
2. Student-teams will study the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Brochure, quotations in the document titled “Letters and Quotes”, the map and video. Then, through a role playing game held during class, students will report to the class the specific effects that Euro-Americans had on the Nez Perce life-style. What changes could have been made to reduce these impacts on the Nez Perce life-styles? Why do you think these changes did not take place at the time? The students will then use the information gained during the team presentations to address the question: How could both cultures live together in peace?

Directions:

1. Assign members of the class to represent the following Nez Perce Historical Trail Groups -

- Joseph Band
- General Howard and his troops
- Farmers, miners and settlers
- Non-treaty Bands
- Isaac Stevens

2. Explain to the class that after viewing the video and reviewing the brochure, map, and quotations, as representatives of their assigned groups, they will give a five-minute oral presentation answering three questions. The questions are –

- What could have been done to make the reservation idea work better?
- What other ideas might have worked better than the reservation?
- What changes could have been made at the time to reduce the impact of the reservation on the Nez Perce people's life-style?

The oral presentations will be given during the next class period. The video *Landscape of History* provides answers to their assigned questions. Advise the class that further information on the different groups and their effects on the Nez Perce people's life-style can be found in public libraries and at the Nez Perce National Historical Park at Spalding, Idaho and the Big Hole National Battlefield in Montana.

3. Show the video, display the fold out map and have the brochure available. Direct the students to copies of the quotes found in the document titled "Letters and Quotes".

4. Hold the oral presentations. Keep each group to about a five-minute limit.

5. Homework: Ask the class to answer, in writing, the question, "What could have been done to promote peace between the Euro-Americans and Nez Perce so they could have lived together?"