

Songs of Native Americans

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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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<http://www.chillihistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: The lesson provides students with an opportunity to understand similarities in cultures. The lesson covers the singing chants of the Native American during different life situations and songs that Americans sing today during life situations.

Objectives:

While reading When Legends Die, by Hal Borland, Lippincott Publishing, students will analyze and apply the significance of the songs sung by the mother.

Students will relate a song that they sing for a specific circumstance and mood.

Students will state the importance of these songs to our culture.

Materials: Book-When Legends Die, by Hal Borland
CD- *Traditional Lakota Songs* by Porcupine Singers/Canyon Recordings
Worksheet-attached
CD Player

Class Time: 50 minutes

Teacher Input: Students are reading the literature set, When Legends Die, by Hal Borland. Teacher reads Chapter 2 aloud to the class. Q-Why was it so important for his mother to teach him the “old” songs before they were separated? A- *So he could know his people and their ways.* Play the first song on CD Traditional Lakota Songs. Discuss with students what feelings the song induces and in what circumstance it may be used. Choose another song on CD and play it. Use same discussion as with first song. Hand worksheet out to students. Students complete worksheet.

Activities: Teacher generated worksheet attached to the lesson plan. Student answers questions and then group is called back to discussion of answers given. Q-Do we have any songs that might be traditional to our culture? A- *Happy Birthday.* Focus discussion around worksheet.

Questions for review: How are traditional songs taught to us as children, important to us as adults? Answers from students will vary but will relate to family traditions and cultural background.

Closure: Play The Lakota National Anthem (Flag Song) from the CD, next play The American National Anthem.

Assessment: Discussion and completion of Song Sheet, students will be aware of the role traditional songs play in our culture.

Extension: None

References: When Legends Die, by Hal Borland, Lippincott Publishing.
Traditional Lakota Songs by the Porcupine Singers/Canyon

Songs Worksheet

1. Why was it important to Bessie to teach Tom the songs before they were separated and he was taken to the reservation school?
2. Why did the officials at the reservation school not allow the Indian students to sing their songs?
3. Think about the events I have listed below. List a song you hear at this event and how you feel when you hear the song.

Emotion/Feeling

Event/Circumstance

Song Name

Wedding

Death

Birthday

Education

Religion/Spiritual

Military/Battle