

**Title**

South Dakota Indian Reservations Today—Native Students.

**Grade Level**

Adult workshop for Native inmates.

**Theme****Duration**

1½ hours.

**Goal**

Participants will increase their understanding of the geographical locations and differences among the tribes living on the South Dakota reservations.

**Objectives**

Workshop participants will know:

1. The number of reservations in SD.
2. Which tribes live on those reservations.
3. Where the reservations are located.
4. Which two reservations are the largest in population and which reservation is the smallest.
5. Which bands live on which reservations.

**South Dakota Standards****Cultural Concept**

Participants should recognize the diversity of the SD reservations.

**Cultural Background**

The reservations in South Dakota are populated by the seven tribes of the *Oceti Sakowin*, The Seven Council Fires.

Those tribes, who began as one tribe, are now divided into three major language dialect groups: the Dakota, the Nakota, and the Lakota. They are often called the Sioux.

According to their oral tradition, they originated as a people at Wind Cave in South Dakota and have always lived in that general area. At the time of European contact, the people lived in Minnesota. The word Dakota means “Considered-friends.” Before they separated, the Dakota lived in the area around Lake Mille Lac in Minnesota, where they would come together for winter camp. Over time they separated into the *Oceti Sakowin* “Seven Council Fires” as they traveled further away to hunt and no longer camped together in the winter. The tribes came together periodically for ceremonies. The seven sacred ceremonies are the basis of differentiating these tribes from other tribes, which do not have all seven of the ceremonies.

**Student Activities**

1. Prepare a flash card for each reservation (tribe) containing the name of the reservation, its location, which dialect is spoken there, which of the seven tribes of the Seven Council fires is located on the reservation, what the land area is for

- each reservation and what the population is on each reservation. Give one flash card to each of nine participants from the group.
2. Prepare a flash card for each of the Seven Council Fires including the reservation on which they live and give a flash card to eight participants in the group. Multiple cards will be needed for the Teton, as shown below, to show the seven nations of the Teton.
  3. Have each participant holding a reservation's name read the information from his card and then stand in the part of the room where the reservation is located assuming the classroom represents the State of SD. Have the participants with the band names from the Seven Council Fires go stand next to the reservation where they are located. The seven nations of the Tetons are located on the reservations west of the Missouri River.
  4. If time permits, after portraying the geographic locations and the bands located there, ask the nine reservation participants to arrange themselves in the order of land size for each reservation and announce to the class their land size. Next ask them to arrange themselves by population size on each reservation and announce their population size.

### **Resources**

Flash cards for reservations (tribes), the seven nations of the *Oceti Sakowin*, the seven Lakota (Teton) nations, and a map of South Dakota showing the locations of the reservations. See the additional information section.

### **Assessment**

1. Provide a map of the State of South Dakota showing the reservations without the names and a list of the reservation and ask the group to match them.
2. Ask the participants to call out something new they learned during the exercise.
3. Ask participants for suggestions on other topics that might be useful for a future workshop.
4. Ask if there was anything presented they thought needed further explanation.

### **References**

- AANative Arts. (2005). *Overview of the Pine Ridge Reservation: Home to the Oglala Sioux*. Retrieved July 2008, from [http://www.aaanativearts.com/pine\\_ridge\\_reservation.htm](http://www.aaanativearts.com/pine_ridge_reservation.htm)
- Herman, A., & Walker, J. R. (1982). The seven council fires. In J. R. Walker, *Lakota society* (R. J. DeMallie, Ed., pp. 14-18). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- South Dakota Office of Tribal Government Relations. (2004). *Nine tribes of South Dakota*. Retrieved July 2008, from [www.state.sd.us/oia/tribes.asp](http://www.state.sd.us/oia/tribes.asp)
- Wikipedia. (n.d.). *Lakota people*. Retrieved July 2008, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakota\\_people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakota_people)

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### **Additional Information**

Flash card for the reservations (tribes) contents:

*Crow Creek Sioux Tribe*—Central SD on the east side of the Missouri River. Nakota & Dakota dialects. Mdewakanton and Ihanktonwan bands. 125,591 acres. 1,230 reservation population.

*Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe*—Northwestern SD. Lakota dialect. 4 of the Teton bands: Minnecoujou, Oohenunpa, Itazipco, Sihasapa. 1.4 million acres. 8,000 reservation population.

*Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe*—Eastern SD near the Minnesota border. Dakota dialect. Mdewakanton and Wahpekute bands. 2,356 acres. 726 reservation population.

*Lower Brule Sioux Tribe*—Central SD on the west side of the Missouri River across the river from the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe. Lakota dialect. Sicangu band of the Teton. 132,601 acres. 726 reservation population.

*Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation*—Far southwestern SD. Lakota dialect. Oglala band of the Teton. About 1.8 million acres. 38,000 reservation population.

*Rosebud Sioux Tribe*—Southwestern SD. Lakota dialect. Sicangu band of the Teton. 882,416 acres. 21,245 reservation population.

*Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate on the Lake Traverse Reservation*—Northeastern SD. Dakota dialect. Sisseton and Wahpeton bands. 106,153 acres. 9,894 reservation population.

*Standing Rock Sioux Tribe*—Northwestern SD. Most of the reservation is in ND. Hunkpapa band of the Teton. Lakota Dialect. 562,366 acres in SD. 10,133 reservation population.

*Yankton Sioux Tribe*—South-central SD. Nakota dialect. Ihanktonwan band. 40,000 acres. 3,500 reservation population.

Flash cards for the seven nations of the Oceti Sakowin contents:

*Sisseton (Camping among swamps)* on the Lake Traverse Reservation.

*Teton (Camping on the plains)* on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge, Standing Rock, and Lower Brule Sioux Reservations.

(Make flash cards for each of the 7 nations comprising the Tetons, as shown below.)

*Wahpetan (Leaf shooters)* on the Lake Traverse Reservation.

*Ihanktonwan (Camping at the end)* on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.

*Ihanktonwanna (Camping at the little end)* on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation.

*Mdewakantowan (Camping at Spirit Lake)* on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation.

*Wahpekute (Camping among leaves)* on the Flandreau-Santee Sioux Reservation.

Flash cards for the seven Lakota (Teton) nations:

*Oglala (Cast on own) Teton* on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

*Sicangu (Thighs scorched) Teton* on the Rosebud and Lower Brule Reservations  
(Make two cards.).

*Minneconjous (Plant near water) Teton* on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

*Hunkpapa (End of horn) Teton* on the Standing Rock Reservation.

*Itazipco (No bow) Teton* on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

*Sihasapa (Black foot) Teton* on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

*Oohenumpa (Two kettles) Teton* on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Map of South Dakota showing the locations of the reservations.

This may be found on [www.state.sd.us/oia](http://www.state.sd.us/oia).