

# Native American Trade Lesson Plan



## Summary

**Content Area** Social Studies

**Grade Level** Grades 3-5

**Topic / Unit of Study** Diversity of Native American cultures.

**Objective** Students will be able to:

- Identify conflicts involving use of land, natural resources, economy, and competition for scarce resources
- Understand how Native Americans shared and traded commodities through a network of land and water routes.
- Recognize that culture, traditions, location, and resources influence the economy practiced within a society.

**Duration** 60 Minutes

## Implementation

**Materials**

- [Gone Fishin' Cabin](#)\*
- [Tribal Nations Map](#)
- [Indigenous Economies](#) video or other similar materials
- Access to online research resources

### Instruction

1. Assess prior knowledge by asking what students know about Native American trade. Discuss what items may have been traded and why trade was important to their society.
2. Show students the Tribal Nations map. Note which tribes were native to the local area and discuss what items may have been traded by those tribes.
3. Show Indigenous Economies video.
4. Split students into pairs or small groups. Have each group research a tribe and what resources they used for trade. Give each group notecards to draw/write items that were commonly traded.
5. Take children to the Playground Cabin. Allow students to role play trading amongst other groups using their note card items. Discuss how the tribes may have determined a "fair trade."
6. Return to the classroom or utilize outdoor tables if available. As an Exit Ticket, have each student write 2-3 sentences about what they learned about Native American trade and why it was important.

\*If Gone Fishin' Cabin is not available, role play can be conducted indoors.

## Assessment

1. Students will engage in group discussion, verbalizing relevant thoughts, questions, and ideas.
2. Students will use basic research skills to find information about Native American trade.
3. Students will give a brief written summary about the importance of trade to indigenous societies.