



Academic Resources for Teachers & Students



Don Weller:

Another Cowboy

06.17.16 - 07.24.16

9-12

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# Lesson Overview

## Lesson Plans

Designed to extend and enhance the learning experience of our exhibits while linking to core curriculum subject matter.

## Lesson Objectives

- To learn about the American Indian Movement
- To understand how Native Americans participated in the civil rights era of the 1960's
- To understand the complaints and goals of Native Americans
- Learn about famous American Indians that are typically ignored by society.

**Core Curriculum Tie-Ins:** Kindergarten through Fifth Grade: Visual Art, Social Studies, Geography and Language Arts

## Lesson Overview

The 1960's brought about drastic changes in culture and civil rights all over the country. Typically, people think of Woodstock, the Civil Rights movement, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Vietnam. But during the 60's, the American Indian Movement (AIM) was extremely busy drawing attention to the inequalities faced by Native American's each year. Students will create their own posters for AIM, highlighting either goals or their complaints for the social movement.

**Length Of Lesson:** One to Two Class Sessions

## Supplies

- Computers or a library
  - Large poster sized paper (preferably card stock)
  - Colored paper
  - Pencils, markers, crayons
  - Glue and scissors
- \*Paints can also be used however be prepared for a mess\*

## About Don Weller: Another Cowboy

Don Weller's heroes have always been cowboys. After studying fine arts, however, he reluctantly left them behind, and began a long career as a graphic designer and illustrator. His dynamic and often whimsical work appeared on record covers, posters, in advertisements, and on hundreds of magazine pages. Weller rediscovered his love for rural lands and the world of cowboys when he moved to Utah in the 1980s, creating the ongoing inspiration for his current paintings. Working exclusively in watercolor, he expertly captures the grit of cowboys and the striking landscapes of the west. This retrospective at the Kimball is a unique opportunity to view works from all stages of Weller's celebrated career—from sketchbooks and early illustrations to the iconic western scenes for which he is now well-known.

## Lesson Plan

1. Ask students about the 60's, what was happening? Once they focus on the civil rights movement, ask them about what the civil rights movement was about and who was involved. Do they believe the civil rights movement expanded beyond African-Americans?

2. Introduce students to the conditions of American Indians prior to and during the '60's. What challenges do they think American Indians faced? What are some of the biggest factors that led to the injustices against American Indians?

- How are those injustices similar or different than those faced by women? By African Americans?
- How would these injustices make you feel towards the U.S. Government? Towards White people?

3. Break the students up into groups of 2-3 and have them research the goals and history of the American Indian Movement. Since it's still active today, have them focus on ideas and goals at the inception of the organization during the 60's. Each group should pick a single issue, idea, or goal the American Indian Movement had and whether or not this goal has been achieved.

4. Show students posters from the 60's: music, political, civil rights, and vietnam protests. Have each group create a poster for their topic. The goal should be that their poster could have been a real one from the 1960's. Give students the necessary materials. The look, feel and content needs to be 1960's specific.

Before photoshop and computers, graphic artists had to use traditional techniques. Do not allow students access to any contemporary devices.

5. After giving students ample time to create their poster (This could last a whole class session depending on materials and students) hang them around the classroom. Invite the students to walk and look at the posters and see how each has turned out.

6. Finally have each group present their poster, explaining their topic and how it is displayed on their poster. Also have each group report on the successes and challenges of the American Indian Movement. The class can end with a group discussion, with students summarizing their ideas and thoughts.

## Resources

Occupying Alcatraz

<http://www.history.com/news/native-american-activists-occupy-alcatraz-island-45-years-ago>

American Indian Movement Website

<http://www.aimovement.org/ggc/history.html>

Utah Education lessons about AIM

<http://www.uen.org/indianed/teacherresources/aihistorylessons/SecAdditions/10thGradeCivilRights.pdf>

Treaties broken by the U.S. government

<http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/01/18/368559990/broken-promises-on-display-at-native-american-treaties-exhibit>

Treaties with Native Americans

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/ntreaty.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/ntreaty.asp)

American Indian Movement Occupation of Wounded Knee

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2014/02/27/native-history-aim-occupation-wounded-knee-begins-153765>

# Vocabulary

## **The American Indian Movement**

The American Indian Movement (AIM) is an American Indian advocacy group in the United States, founded in July 1968 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. AIM was initially formed to address American Indian sovereignty, treaty issues, spirituality, and leadership.

## **Incident at Wounded Knee**

The Wounded Knee incident began on February 27, 1973, when approximately 200 Oglala Lakota and followers of the American Indian Movement (AIM) seized and occupied the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

## **Treaty**

A formally concluded and ratified agreement between countries.

## **Massacre at Wounded Knee**

The Wounded Knee Massacre occurred on December 29, 1890, between 150-300 men, women, and children, were killed by U.S. cavalry.

## **Occupation of Alcatraz**

The Occupation of Alcatraz was an occupation of Alcatraz Island by 89 American Indians who called themselves Indians of All Tribes .The Alcatraz Occupation lasted for nineteen months, from November 20, 1969, to June 11, 1971, and was forcibly ended by the U.S. government.

## **Dennis Banks**

Dennis Banks (born April 12, 1937), a Native American leader, teacher, lecturer, activist and author, is an Anishinaabe born on Leech Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota. He has been a longtime leader of the American Indian Movement, which he co-founded in 1968 with Native Americans in Minneapolis.