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The objective of this lesson is that the student will be able to compare classroom rules and expectations with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. I am creating this lesson to show students how treaties were written by the United States with many rules and regulations that the Native Americans didn't always understand. I will do this by telling the students the rules and regulations of the classroom and then "punishing" them for not following rules that they may or may not have been aware of.

This is a first grade classroom, and Native American Studies is not part of our district curriculum. I am using this lesson as a way to introduce discussions on Native Americans of the great plains.

Lesson Objective:

Students will compare classroom rules and expectations to the contents of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. This lesson meets the first grade Social Studies objective: With minimal prompting the student is able to name the classroom rules.

Introduction:

I will begin by creating a list of classroom rules and expectations on chart paper. I will include items like, raise your hand to speak, use respectful words, and keep hands and feet to self. I will make sure that I don't give the students input on the rules. Once the list is complete with 4-5 rules, I will post the chart on the wall in a prominent location in the classroom.

Next, I will move on with regular classroom routine and curriculum. As the day and/or time passes I will send students to the 'safe seat' for doing things such as raising their hand. I anticipate that this will bring questions from the students, but if not, I will begin to send them to the safe seat for more obvious examples of following the rules, like using respectful words and then telling the students that they weren't using appropriate language.

Closing:

Towards the end of the day, I will bring the students back to the rug and ask them why they didn't think things were fair in the classroom today. As we discuss that students were sent to the safe seat for doing things that were following direction and on our chart poster, I will use this time to make sure that I tell them they are right. I will let them know that I was doing this to show them about something that has happened in our country. I will tell the students about the treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868 and how the United States promised the Lakota people that they were going to write a treaty of rules and regulations much like our chart. I will also talk with them about how the United States broke those promises and much like I sent them to the safe seat, the United States took their home (the Black Hills) away from them.

I will end with open discussion about why they feel like the classroom activity was unfair and how they felt. Also, why they think the Treaty of Fort Laramie of 1868 was fair and how they think the Lakota people felt.