

Tableaux Performance

Background knowledge: The goings-on of the January 1945 Alaska Territorial Legislative session, which discussed the Anti-discrimination Bill for Alaska Natives that resulted from the unfair treatment of Alaska Natives.

Students will portray the events leading up to the 1945 Legislative session in the form of read aloud performances and tableaux.

Two - Four week Social Studies unit on Alaska Native Rights History (5 hrs/week)

Week One: Pre-contact – 50 years after contact
Tlingit culture – Accounts from oral stories
Contact with Russian traders/Gold seekers
Integration of Western Culture

Week Two: Shifts in Culture
Changes in Tlingit Culture
Shift in teaching practices – kids going to boarding schools (not learning culture)

Week Three: AK Natives Political Advancement
Connections to Martin Luther King – Civil Rights – Unfair treatment
Compare it to unfair treatment of Alaska Natives in Alaska
Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native Sisterhood Establishment
Showing of “For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska” DVD

Week Four: Development of Tableaux scenes based on research/diary entries
Have students select entries in order of events, practice, practice, practice!
Arrange props/costumes for performance (40s style clothing)
Invite families for an afternoon of AK Native Rights History tableaux (see below for suggested scenes)

TABLEAUX PRODUCTION

Suggested Scenes

- 1) Arrival of non-Natives to Alaska
- 2) Integration of Western Culture (Natives and non-Natives mingling)
- 3) Contention between Natives and non-Natives
- 4) Start of Discrimination/ Denial of services
 - a. Movie Theatre Scene (removal of Native in ‘non-Native’ section)
 - b. Restaurant Scene (No Natives/Dogs allowed)
 - c. Refusing house sale to Peratrovich’s
- 5) Gathering of Brotherhood/Sisterhood
- 6) Travel to AK Territorial Legislature
- 7) Depictions of Senators against Anti-Discrimination Bill
- 8) E.P Speech
- 9) Passage of Bill