

Becoming Wisconsin: From Indian Lands to Territory to Statehood

This chapter deals with the changes that took place in the Wisconsin area during the first half of the 1800s. At the beginning of this period most of this land was held by Indian nations. By its end, these peoples held little of this land, and Wisconsin had become the 30th state of the United States of America. As students study this period, they will learn both the key events and the effects that these events had on the people living in the Wisconsin area.

Activity 5.1 *Whose Land? A Story of Black Hawk*

Overview

In this activity students will perform a play focusing on important events in the story of Black Hawk, one of the key Indian leaders of this era. The activity allows students to enjoy the experience of readers' theater while also gaining a stronger sense of one of the most significant events in Wisconsin's early history.

Management

Materials

- Student Activity 5.1 (Teacher Pages 1–2; Student Pages 1–10)
- Props for the play: two chairs, a desk, a large cloth sack, a blanket, something that looks like an inkwell, a long sheet of paper, several sheets of writing paper, life-size drawings of several corn stalks, a shovel and garden hoe (or two broomsticks), a map of the United States

Grouping

- Whole class

Activity 5.2 *Government Word Sort*

Overview

In this activity students become more adept at manipulating the specialized vocabulary and language of government. It helps them become more familiar with the words—from “capital” to “vote”—and with the concepts that they represent.

Management

Materials

- Student Activity 5.2 (Teacher Page 1; Student Page 1)

Grouping

- Whole class followed by small groups or supervised individual students