



THE MOHICAN PEOPLE  
THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS  
A CURRICULUM UNIT FOR GRADES FOUR-FIVE

PART 7 LIFE TODAY FOR THE MOHICANS

TIME ONE CLASS PERIOD

- OBJECTIVES**
1. Students will complete their study of the Mohican people and of the Mohican Nation to which they belong.
  2. Students will practice locating the present-day location of the reservation of the Mohican Nation Stockbridge-Munsee Band on a classroom map of Wisconsin.
  3. Students will be able to tell how several important events changed the history of the Mohican Nation.
  4. Students will be able to identify some of the places on the reservation and tell how they have changed the life of the Mohican people.

**MATERIALS** Student Resource Sheet #7.1: Places on the Reservation  
Teacher Resource Sheet #7.1: Places on the Reservation — Key  
Activity #7.T: Coming Full Circle  
Student Social Studies/History notebooks for continuing/completing the outline on Mohican history

- PROCEDURE**
1. Beginning with the information under **RESERVATION** on page 4 of the *BRIEF HISTORY*, have students put that heading on a new page in their notebooks. Then have them print **Early Economy** and review with them what led to such great poverty on the reservation. Add the following topics and give them whatever information you think they should have from the remainder of that section:
    - General Allotment Act**  
Be sure students understand what allotment meant (as opposed to tribal ownership of land) and how it contributed to the loss of Native lands.
    - John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs**
    - Indian Reorganization Act and new Constitution**  
Encourage students to understand that often the people, not the leaders, move for change in a community, state or nation. The commissioner could not help the Stockbridge-Munsee by himself. Note that the work of tribal leaders such as **Carl Miller, Harry Chicks** and **Arvid Miller** made it possible for the nation to get tribal land in trust so it could never be sold. Now the people had permanent land to build on and a new government.
  2. Have students print **STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE MOHICANS TODAY** on a new sheet in their notebooks. Have them get into groups of four or five and pass out a copy of Student Resource Sheet #7.1 to each student. Be sure to keep one for yourself!



UNIT  
PART 7

THE MOHICAN PEOPLE: THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS  
LIFE TODAY FOR THE MOHICANS, p. 2

In their groups, have them match each photo with what appears to be its number. Tell them they will have to act like detectives and look for the clues that are in many of the photos. When all groups have finished, have a discussion with the class, first, to check on the accuracy of each list and its numbers and, secondly, on how the students think each building or place might have changed the life of the Mohican people.

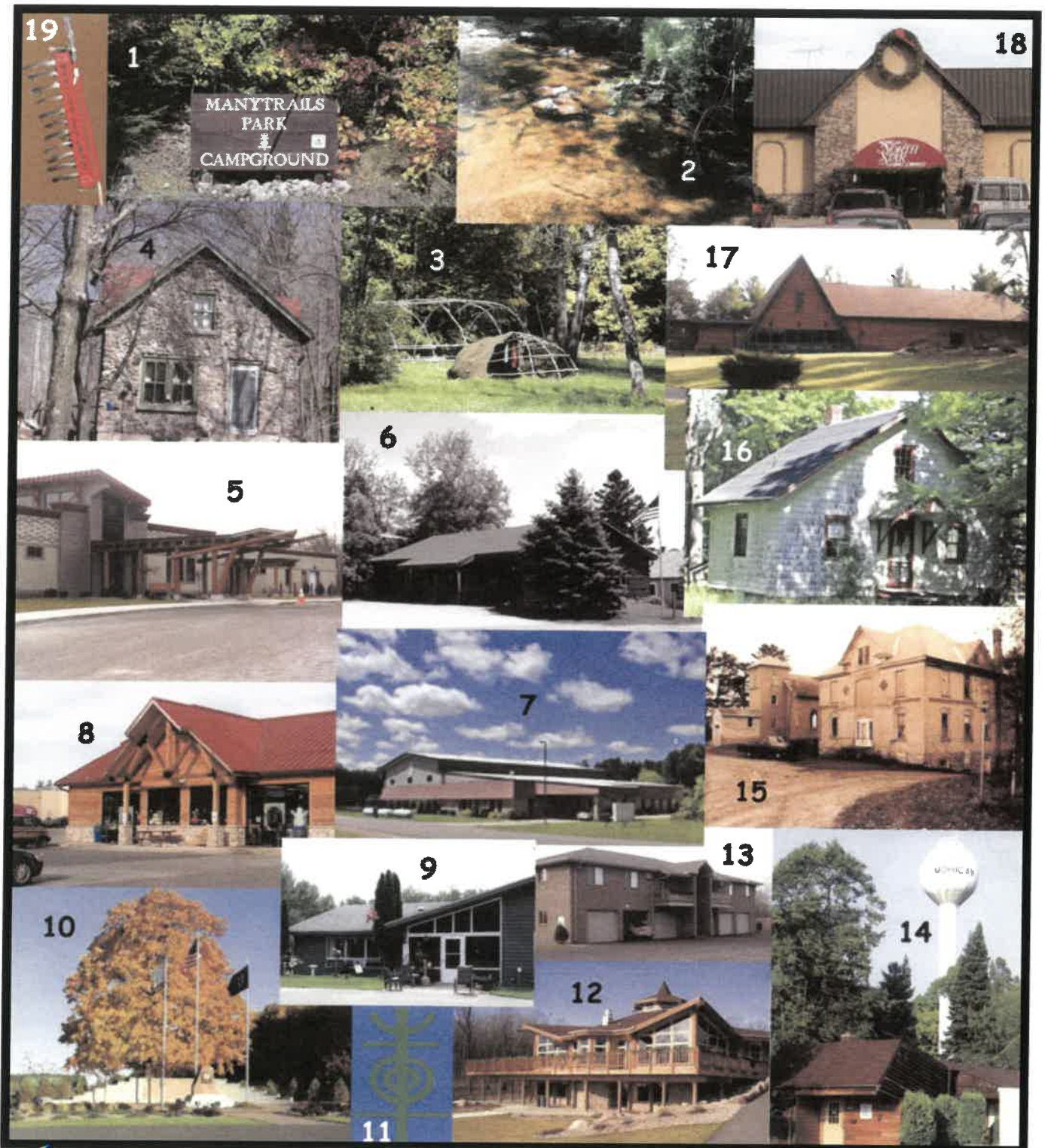
Your key will help identify the photos and keep students on track with buildings' or places' effects on Mohican lives.

3. Now conclude this curriculum with Activity #7.T: Coming Full Circle (see page at the end of this curriculum).





STUDENT RESOURCE SHEET #7.1: PLACES ON THE RESERVATION  
UNIT THE MOHICAN PEOPLE: THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS  
PART 7 LIFE TODAY FOR THE MOHICANS



Adapted from *A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MOHICAN NATION, STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE BAND* by Dorothy W. Davids, Mohican Elder (Stockbridge-Munsee Historical Committee, 2004), p. 7.





UNIT THE MOHICAN PEOPLE: THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS  
PART 7 STUDENT RESOURCE SHEET #7.1: PLACES ON THE RESERVATION, p. 2

WORKING AS A GROUP AND USING PAGE 1 OF THESE RESOURCE SHEETS, TRY TO MATCH EACH PHOTO IN THE PICTURE WITH THE NAME BELOW BY PLACING ITS NUMBER IN THE SPACE. MANY PHOTOS HAVE CLUES TO HELP YOU FIND THEIR IDENTITY, SO LOOK CLOSELY!

- \_\_\_ PINE HILLS GOLF COURSE AND SUPPER CLUB
- \_\_\_ OLD LUTHERAN MISSION SCHOOL
- \_\_\_ MANY TRAILS BANQUET HALL
- \_\_\_ EARLY FRAME HOUSE ON THE RESERVATION
- \_\_\_ EVEN EARLIER STONE HOUSE ON THE RESERVATION
- \_\_\_ EARLIEST BUILDINGS OF THE MOHICAN PEOPLE
- \_\_\_ NORTH STAR CASINO AND BINGO
- \_\_\_ MOHICAN VETERANS EAGLE STAFF
- \_\_\_ HOUSING OFFICE AND WATER TOWER
- \_\_\_ LITTLE STAR CONVENIENCE STORE
- \_\_\_ MANY TRAILS PARK & CAMPGROUND
- \_\_\_ ELLA BESAW CENTER
- \_\_\_ MANY TRAILS
- \_\_\_ STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER
- \_\_\_ MOHICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL
- \_\_\_ MOHICAN APARTMENT BUILDING
- \_\_\_ RED RIVER IN THE MANY TRAILS PARK
- \_\_\_ MOHICAN FAMILY CENTER
- \_\_\_ ARVID E. MILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY MUSEUM





TEACHER RESOURCE SHEET #7.1  
PLACES ON THE RESERVATION — KEY

UNIT THE MOHICAN PEOPLE, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS

PART 7 LIFE TODAY FOR THE MOHICAN PEOPLE

12 PINE HILLS GOLF COURSE AND SUPPER CLUB This photo is of the Pine Hills Club House and Supper Club. The golf course now has eighteen holes and has received many awards. CLUES — Beautiful landscaping, a bit fancy for tribal apartments. CHANGES — Jobs; practice in various skills for employees; contracts with many non-tribal businesses for goods and services; more business for local motels; more interest in game of golf among Native people, especially young people; pride in a tribal business.

15 OLD LUTHERAN MISSION SCHOOL This was one of the schools that Stockbridge-Munsee children attended. Located in the Town of Red Springs, it was built by the Lutheran Church in 1902, served as a boarding school from 1908 to 1933, and closed as a day school in 1958. CLUES — Obviously an older building; next to church. CHANGES — Brought Lutheran missionaries to Red Springs; educated Native children, especially in the Lutheran religion; when boarding, children were away from families during the week or for longer periods of time; mixed feelings about boarding schools among tribal families today. The Stockbridge people were Christianized in the mid-eighteenth century, and presently there are six Christian churches within the original treaty boundaries of the Reservation. A number of Stockbridge-Munsee people also honor the old Mohican values and attend traditional ceremonies, such as W'CHIN DIN, when they can.

17 MANY TRAILS BANQUET HALL This building is located near the golf course. CLUES — Many Trails symbol on the front of the A-frame; beautiful lawn looks like golf course. CHANGES — Provides place on the Reservation for weddings, ceremonies, conferences, banquets and other events; people have pride in a beautiful place to celebrate special occasions and to host guests.

16 EARLY FRAME HOUSE ON THE RESERVATION These frame houses were built after the Great Depression through a federal program for Mohican families on the Reservation. CLUES — Frame house different from any other buildings shown here. CHANGES — New style of housing for the Mohican people at that time, although in their early days these houses did not have either electricity or indoor plumbing. Until they got electricity, the people paid for a generator that provided energy at night.

4 EVEN EARLIER STONE HOUSE ON THE RESERVATION These homes were built out of field stones found on the Reservation. Before the coming of the Europeans, Native people always used materials provided by Mother Earth for their homes. CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — These homes were built in the Towns of Red Springs and Bartelme by the Stockbridge-Munsee who moved there after 1856. They were probably not much different from homes they built in other locations before arriving in Wisconsin.





UNIT THE MOHICAN PEOPLE, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS  
PART 7 TEACHER RESOURCE SHEET #7.1: PLACES . . . KEY, p.2

3 EARLIEST BUILDINGS OF THE MOHICAN PEOPLE This is a photo of a sweat lodge used for prayers and cleansing. The larger lodge behind it, called a wiikwam (WEEK wam), could have been the frame of a home for a couple of families of the same clan before the Europeans came or might have been used for ceremonies. Nowadays, Mohicans are trying to regain their first language because, through it, the people can understand their culture best. Efforts to learn are presently going on through language classes and camps, sometimes held in the wiikwam. Learning to pray in their own Native language is important and necessary to properly practice their traditional ceremonies. CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — Allows for traditional ways of living to be thought about and participated in; pride in traditional Mohican ways of life, especially speaking their first language and holding Mohican ceremonies; encourages use of traditional buildings by tribal members; allows visitors to the Reservation to see what a traditional Mohican village might have looked like.

18 NORTH STAR CASINO AND BINGO CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — These are many, since revenue increased dramatically and allowed the Mohican Nation to finance numerous projects on or near the Reservation; per capita payments to tribal members which allow them to share in the tribal income; jobs for both Mohicans and non-Mohicans (Mohican Nation is the largest employer in Shawano County); employees learn a wide variety of skills and services, including experience in dealing with customers and so on; pride in owning "the friendliest casino in Wisconsin" with additional conveniences such as Little Star and an RV park; ability of the Nation to construct new buildings to serve tribal and non-tribal members (including the new Health and Wellness Center, Little Star Convenience Store, tribal apartment buildings including one for Elders, water treatment facility, and also plans for expansion of facilities already constructed such as a new Library Museum and a new casino, Bingo hall, hotel and conference center, among other Reservation improvements).

19 MOHICAN VETERANS EAGLE STAFF At the annual Mohican Veterans Pow-wow, this staff is usually carried in the Grand Entry by a Mohican Veteran who has served in combat. Another Eagle staff is also carried by a Mohican Veteran; it is a commemorative honor staff to which an eagle feather may be added by the family of a deceased Veteran. At this time there are nineteen feathers on this staff. CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — Greater pride on the part of Veterans, their families and the community; instruction of audience by pow-wow's Master of Ceremonies about Native customs and ceremonies; encouragement of tourists and other people to visit the Reservation (also review the information in Part 5 on TRS # 5.1, p. 4 regarding the photo on p. 42 of *CHIEF NINHAM* book).

14 HOUSING OFFICE AND WATER TOWER This water tower, completed in 1993, provides water for the tribal housing area, including the Family Center, Elderly Center and other tribal buildings, as well as many homes of tribal members. CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — Mohican people who live in tribal housing and/or use facilities on this tribal land are assured fresh water supplied by the Nation rather than from individual wells.





8 LITTLE STAR CONVENIENCE STORE Little Star not only serves tribal members but also casino patrons and others driving by. CLUES — Parking space in front; merchandise in the windows; air pump to right of photo. CHANGES — Jobs as mentioned above; convenient service to tribal members who otherwise might need to travel much farther for items sold there; tribal pride in having reliable service available for travelers and so on.

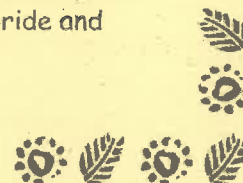
1 MANY TRAILS PARK & CAMPGROUND This is a beautiful little park along the West Branch of the Red River which flows through the Reservation. It includes a campground with many spaces for tents and campers in a special area. CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — Jobs; pleasant place on the Reservation for tribal members to picnic, fish, camp, swim, exercise, play games and have family reunions; summer camps for young ones and Elders, and other activities.

9 ELLA BESAW CENTER This is a home for Elders who need assistance in some ways that their families are not able to provide. It was named in honor of a tribal Elder who helped heal people by using herbs and medicine plants which she found in the Mohican forests. CLUES — None. CHANGES — Makes it possible for Elders to stay on the Reservation and live close to their families instead of going to nursing homes or other facilities farther away to get care.

11 MANY TRAILS This design was created by tribal member Edwin Martin in a silver-making project sponsored by the University of Wisconsin Extension in the 1960s. Mr. Martin wrote the following about it: "The Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians were pushed from the Eastern Seaboard across half a continent, forced to uproot and move many times to our present land in Wisconsin. 'MANY TRAILS' is an original design symbolizing ENDURANCE, STRENGTH and HOPE from a long suffering, proud and determined People." CLUES — None. CHANGES — The Many Trails has become the tribal symbol and is used for many purposes. It may be found on many tribal buildings, inside and out (see # 1 and 17 on the collage), and is well-loved by the Mohican people because of who created it and what it stands for.

5 STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER This building includes a variety of services for tribal members and members of the public — medical, dental, chiropractic, pharmacy, behavioral health, loans of medical equipment and so on. CLUES — None. CHANGES — No need to travel far to get a wide variety of health and medical services; entire area of Shawano County and tribal members elsewhere can make use of this facility; jobs available, medical, administrative and technical, such as lab, dental and radiology technician, counselors and psychiatric personnel as well as repair and cleaning specialists; contracts with outside companies for services and materials.

10 MOHICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL This was built by the Mohican Veterans in 2002. Each brick has names of Veterans of the armed services, both Mohican and others in the area. The memorial stone has an eagle whose wings enclose four Mohican Veterans — one man and woman in traditional outfits and a man and a woman in contemporary uniforms. It reads: "A memorial before the Great Spirit to all Veterans who served — who fought — who died — who returned and carry on. Dedicated by the Mohican Veterans 2002." CLUES—Obvious. CHANGES — Increased pride and





UNIT  
PART 7

THE MOHICAN PEOPLE, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS  
TEACHER RESOURCE SHEET #7.1: PLACES . . . KEY, p.4

gratitude for our Mohican Veterans and what they have sacrificed for the rest of us; opportunities to honor veterans at ceremonies on certain holidays such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day; encourages anyone traveling by to stop and reflect on and offer thanks for the services performed by Veterans.

13 MOHICAN APARTMENT BUILDING These buildings provide housing for tribal members, employees and others who wish to live on the Reservation. CLUES — Looks like an apartment building with windows, porches and garages. CHANGES — Nearby housing for people who wish to live in an apartment or cannot yet afford purchase of a home; jobs for cleaners, repair and other workers.

2 WEST BRANCH OF THE RED RIVER IN THE MANY TRAILS PARK As noted above, this river runs through the park. There are small footbridges that provide access to little islands here and there in the river. Photos of these bridges and the fast-moving river below are frequently taken by visitors. CLUES — Obvious. CHANGES — None. The Mohican people have always appreciated this river and love to swim in it, fish in it and just enjoy the sight of the river and its pathway through their park.

7 MOHICAN FAMILY CENTER This building houses a gymnasium, fitness center, several classrooms, offices and a kitchen. It provides programs and activities for all members of the family, youth and Elders and all in between, including non-tribal people. CLUES — None. CHANGES — Recreational, health benefits, classes and other activities are available for all who are interested and who don't need to travel far to enjoy them.

6 ARVID E. MILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY MUSEUM This was established in 1974. It preserves all historical materials collected by the Historical Committee over the years. It also includes a museum with displays of Mohican artifacts, many of which have been found in recent years along the banks of the Mahicannituck back in New York State. The building was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Miller who was President of the Tribe for 26 years, and whose wife Bernice founded the Library Museum in his honor. CLUES — None. CHANGES — The library and museum collections serve both the Mohican people themselves, as well as other students and scholars who want to study Mohican history and culture and use the many valuable resources there. This could include your students some day!







ACTIVITY #7.T  
COMING FULL CIRCLE

UNIT THE MOHICAN PEOPLE, THEIR LIVES AND THEIR LANDS

PART 7 LIFE TODAY FOR THE MOHICANS

Focus To return to students' original assumptions and questions in order to reinforce learning.

Materials The original questions and assumptions from Teacher Resource Sheets 1.2 and 1.6; music that can be stopped and started several times

Level Grades 4 and 5

Framing This is an opportunity for students to reflect on what they have learned.

**Suggested Procedure**

1. Prepare this activity by writing each question and assumption the students identified during the Foundations Part of the curriculum (see Teacher Resource Sheets 1.2 and 1.6) onto small strips of paper. (These lists are probably still hanging on your wall.)
2. Give each student one question or assumption.
3. Tell them that you will be playing some music. When the music stops, they are to get a partner (if there is an odd number, there can be a group of three, or you can participate).
4. Each partner takes a turn reading their question and assumption, and then answering it or telling what they believe to be true now.
5. Give them about a minute for each person to share with his or her partner.
6. They then trade their question or assumption with their partner.
7. Then start the music again.
8. They are to find a different partner by the time the music stops.
9. They then share what is on their paper and, and trade again.
10. Do this at least four times, or more if the students seem interested.
11. When done, sit in a circle.
12. Go around the circle, asking each person to read their question or assumption and give a short answer. If someone is stumped, ask for input from others.

This would be a perfect time to add some of these "gems of learning" to your letter to the Mohican Historical Committee (see Activity #5.V).

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With this class, the unit on the history of the Mohican Nation, Stockbridge-Munsee Band ends. But the Mohican people go on with their lives, increasing their land base, restoring their forests, building new homes, finding new ways of improving their lives and helping communities around them when they are in need.

BE SURE THE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT, LIKE THE MOHICAN PEOPLE, ALL NATIVE PEOPLE CONTINUE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES, RAISE THEIR FAMILIES, SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, AND GROW IN NUMBER. THEY ARE NOT THE "VANISHING AMERICANS," AS JAMES FENIMORE COOPER IMPLIED SO LONG AGO AND AS MANY AMERICANS THINK. THEY ARE THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF AMERICA AND WILL ALWAYS BE HERE.

