

**Grades: 6th - 8th Grade****Lesson: 5****Unit:** 2: American Indian land tenure history**Subject:** Geography**Achievement Goal:** Learn the motivations and beliefs behind the passage of the Dawes Act and the allotment of Indian Lands.**Time:** Two class periods**Lesson Description:**

This lesson will further explore the Dawes Act but will emphasize why early Indian policy reformers, who were mostly eastern American non-natives, helped pass the act and how native peoples felt about the division of their lands.

**Teacher Background:**

This lesson relies heavily on two lesson plans found online. The first lesson, "Maps of Indian Territory, the Dawes Act, and Will Rogers' Enrollment Case File", is available through the National Archives. The lesson seeks to teach students about the impact of allotment on the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma using primary documents and maps. The second lesson, "The Dawes Act," is made available by Nebraskastudies.org, a partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education, the Nebraska State Historical Society, and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications. The lesson teaches students about the idealism and motivation behind the Dawes act and the reaction of Indian peoples to the carving-up of their lands. In doing so, the lesson also teaches students how to think critically and analyze primary resources.

**Teacher Preparation Resources:**

- The instructor should carefully review the following items listed in the Lesson Resources Section:
  - "Maps of Indian Territory, the Dawes Act, and Will Rogers' Enrollment Case File"
  - "The Dawes Act"
- Make arrangements for internet access for students if necessary for these lesson plans.

**Student Activity:**

- See the complete lesson plans for student activities.

**Evaluation:**

- See the complete lesson plans for lesson goals and methods of evaluation.

**Lesson Resources:**

- "[Maps of Indian Territory, the Dawes Act, and Will Rogers Enrollment Case File](#)" US National Archives and Records Administration, Digital Classroom
- "[The Dawes Act](#)" Nebraskastudies.org

**Source URL:** <http://www.lessonsofourland.org/lessons/dawes-act-and-allotment-indian-lands>