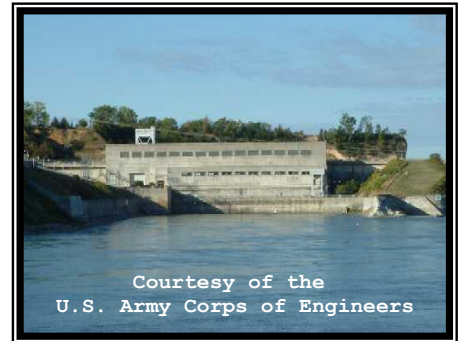


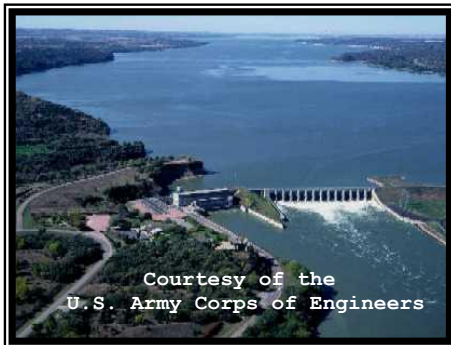
-Tribes of Dakota- Yankton Sioux: Treaties

Beneath the top of Fort Randall Dam in Charles Mix county, generator one joins nearly a dozen other machines in a low, steady hum. That quiet belies its responsibility to provide power to southeast South Dakota and parts of six other states.



On the other side of the thick, concrete dam water rushes through huge pipes to run the generators and provide the electricity. The Fort Randall Dam creates the southern boundary of Lake Francis Case, which stretches northwestward to Chamberlain.

But the boundaries of the neighboring Yankton Sioux Reservation are a little more difficult to define. Just over 200 years ago, the tribe laid claim to over 13 million acres, stretching from the Des Moines River to the Missouri River. Now, to some people outside the tribal lands, there's no reservation there at all and no reason for sovereignty.



Listen to the following in your classroom.

[Treaties \(9:26\)](#)

By Gary Ellenbolt

Reflection, Research, and Discussion (Discuss one or all of the following)

1. By many the 1890 "Battle" of Wounded Knee was considered a military achievement. Later, the details of the horrible event led to the renaming of it by most resources from a battle to a massacre. Should we rename treaties like the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 to reflect broken promises or did the white settlers have a right to disregard the treaty and claim the land of western South Dakota? Why were the Native Americans in South Dakota relocated to their present locations?

The white man proved to be the dominant player in the acquisition of the most productive land in South Dakota. Does the ability to suppress a group of people justify the action?

-Tribes of Dakota-

Yankton Sioux: Treaties Continued



2. Some people outside the tribal lands of the Yankton Sioux believe there is no reservation there at all and no reason for sovereignty. Do you feel that the Yankton Sioux should have the right to sovereignty? Should sovereignty be based on area of land or should it be based on cultural beliefs and a sense of self in one's nation?

3. The 1868 treaty, known as the Fort Laramie Treaty, left the Black Hills and all of western South Dakota under the control of the Lakota. Later, the Lakota were removed from the Black Hills. In 1980, the Supreme Court awarded the great Sioux Nation \$106 million for the loss of the Black Hills. Do you feel \$106 million was a justifiable payment for the Black Hills?

[\(Library of Congress - Indian Land Cessions in the United States\)](#)

[\(Native American treaties 1820-1890 - University of Minnesota Law Library\)](#)

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Try This - "Vanishing Land"

1. The following activity is designed to give your students a visual picture of the amount of land lost by the Yankton Sioux Reservation. According to the June 2003 South Dakota Business Review, the Yankton Sioux ceded "2.2 million acres in 1830 and over 11 million additional acres in 1858" to the U.S. government. The Yankton Sioux were left with approximately 440,000 acres.

According to the South Dakota Attorney General's office, the current size of the Yankton Reservation is approximately a mile square which is 640 acres. The exact boundary of the Yankton Reservation is still in litigation.

[\(click here\)](#)

If your students are unfamiliar with area and size it may be hard for them to visualize an acre of land let alone 13 million acres. The following activity from PBS Mathline called "Calculations from the Farm" may be a nice introduction to land size. [\(click here\)](#)

Most schools have access to a football field. The size of a football field is 160 feet x 300 feet, which is approximately 1 acre. In the following scaling activity, your students will use a football field to visualize the loss of land from 13 million acres to 640 acres. The students should complete the problems below. An answer key is provided. Once the calculations are completed, take your class to a football field. The entire football field represents the 13 million original acres. The answer to question number 3 represents 440,000 acres of land and the answer to question number 6 represents the current 640 acres of Yankton Reservation land.



Tribes of Dakota - Yankton Sioux: Treaties

"Vanishing Land - Student"

Directions: Complete the following problems.



1. Originally the Yankton Sioux had approximately 13 million acres of land. Large amounts of land were turned over to the U.S. government. The Yankton Sioux were left with approximately 440 thousand acres. What percent of the original land was the Yankton Sioux left with?
2. A football field is 48,000 square feet. Assume that the football field represents the 13 million original acres. Using your answer from above, figure out how many square feet of the football field is left for the Yankton Sioux.
3. Assume that the area of land is a perfect square. What is the length of each side? Measure this area on a football field.
4. The Yankton Sioux Reservation was reduced in size from approximately 440 thousand acres to 640 acres. What percent of the 440 thousand acres is the Yankton Sioux left with?
5. Use your answer from question number 2 to complete the following: How many square feet of the football field is left for the Yankton Sioux?
6. Assume that the area of land is a perfect square. What is the length of each side? Measure this area on a football field.
7. Do you feel the current reservations in South Dakota are adequate?

Tribes of Dakota - Yankton Sioux: Treaties

"Vanishing Land - Student"

Directions: Complete the following problems.

(Note: The following scaling activity represents the Yankton Sioux Reservation. The land size values below do not include tribal lands or other reservations in South Dakota.)



1. Originally the Yankton Sioux had approximately 13 million acres of land. Large amounts of land were turned over to the U.S. government; the Yankton Sioux were left with approximately 440 thousand acres. What percent of the original land was the Yankton Sioux left with?

$$= (440,000 \text{ acres} / 13,000,000 \text{ acres}) \times 100\%$$

The Yankton Sioux were left with approximately 3.4%

2. A football field is 48,000 square feet. Assume that the football field represents the 13 million original acres. Using your answer from above, figure out how many square feet of the football field is left for the Yankton Sioux. = $(48,000 \text{ feet}^2 \times .034)$

1,632 feet^2 of the football field is left for the Yankton Sioux

3. Assume that the area of land is a perfect square. What is the length of each side? Measure this area on a football field.

$$= (\text{the square root of } 1,632 \text{ feet}^2)$$

The length of each side is approximately 40.4 feet or 40' and 4 & 13/16"

4. The Yankton Sioux Reservation was reduced in size from approximately 440 thousand acres to 640 acres. What percent of the 440 thousand acres is the Yankton Sioux left with? = $(640 \text{ acres} / 440,000 \text{ acres}) \times 100\%$

The Yankton Sioux were left with approximately .15%

5. Use your answer from question number 2 to complete the following: How many square feet of the football field is left for the Yankton Sioux Reservation? = $(1,632 \text{ feet}^2 \times .0015)$

2.5 feet^2 of the football field is left for the Yankton Sioux Reservation

6. Assume that the area of land is a perfect square. What is the length of each side? Measure this area on a football field.

$$= (\text{the square root of } 2.5 \text{ feet}^2)$$

The length of each side is approximately 1.6 feet or 1 foot and 7 & 3/16"

7. Do you feel the current Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota is adequate? Answers will vary