

Pow Wow Trails

Fast Facts

Curriculum Area: Mathematics
Grade Level: Grade 3
Suggested Duration:

Stage 1 Desired Results

Established Goals

Number Sense and Operation Mathematics Content Standard 1 A student, applying reasoning and problem solving, will use number sense and operations to represent numbers in multiple ways, understand relationships among numbers and number systems, make reasonable estimates, and compute fluently within a variety of relevant cultural contexts, including those of Montana American Indians.

1.2 Estimation and Operations Estimate sums, differences, products, and quotients when solving problems. Add, subtract, multiply (three-digit by two-digit factors), and divide (two-digit dividends by one-digit divisors) to solve problems. Demonstrate fluency with basic facts.

IEFA Essential Understanding 1 There is great diversity among the 12 tribal Nations of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories and governments. Each Nation has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.

IEFA Essential Understanding 3 The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions, and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Additionally, each tribe has its own oral histories, which are as valid as written histories. These histories pre-date the “discovery” of North America.

Understandings

- Pow wows are an important part of some Native American lifestyles.
- Some families travel many miles across the state to attend different pow wows.

Essential Questions

- What are the different reasons that families travel on the pow wow circuit?
- What is the history of pow wows in Native American culture?

Students will be able to...

- calculate the miles traveled on the pow wow circuit.

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- locate different towns of Montana on the map.

Students will know...

- pow wows are still in existence and that families use them as a time of gathering and sharing with other families and friends.
- pow wows are a source of competition and there are many different types of contests at each pow wow.

Stage 2 Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks

1. Students will complete a table that calculates the distance traveled on a particular pow wow circuit.

Other Evidence

1. Students will track the pow wow circuit on a map of Montana

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning Activities

Introduce the history of powwows and the different competitions held within a pow wow. Some American Indian families travel from pow wow to pow wow on what is called the “pow wow circuit” in Montana, using the time to camp and compete.

Explain that the students will be tracing a circuit that will take them throughout the state of Montana, marking the places of the pow wows on a map, and computing the miles traveled and the amount of gas used. Explain that pow wows are typically held on the weekends, but people traveling the circuit do not go home between each celebration. Instead they travel from one town to the next. That is how the miles traveled will be computed.

Give students a map of Montana and introduce the circuit to be traveled. Ask students to locate each town on the map and trace the main highways between the cities. Start at your own town and travel from there. Students will need to fill in your town in the first cell of the table and the last stopping point of the table.

There are three options for finding the mileage – choose whichever one is appropriate for your class (or have different students use different methods).

- Give the mileage information on a piece of paper.
- Have students use the internet and [Google maps](https://www.google.com/maps) and have them fill in the table on their own.
- Using a map and the scale, students figure the mileage on their own.



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Have students complete the table. As they find the mileage between each town, have them look at the map so they can see the distance on the map in relation to the mileage reported. Also, at each stop, have students choose one competition to research and give a brief description of the event. Each powwow needs to have different competitions so students become more familiar with all the competitions.

6. Once students have found the mileage, go to the next step of computing the amount of gas used on the trip.

The final step is to compute the amount of money spent on gas using a rounded amount. You may change the price of gas for students who need differentiation.

Materials/Resources Needed

- [Your Guide to Understanding and Enjoying Pow Wows](#)
- Student worksheet
- Map of Montana

