



# Subject: Pacific Northwest Treaties

## Skill: Cause and Effect

### Framing:

Discuss with students how agreements are made between sovereign nations. What are the types of agreements that nations and their governments would make to their people or to other nations? How could you make sure both sides fulfill their promises? What happens when one side breaks those promises?

Prior to becoming Washington’s first Territorial Governor, Isaac Stevens was charged by the United States government with making treaties with Native Americans, who stewarded the land of what we now know as Washington State since time immemorial. The goal was to secure resources for building a railroad and to obtain land sought by the ever-increasing stream of settlers flowing into the region as the US expanded west and as Washington became a territory in 1853 and later a state in 1889. Use the selected resources to frame a discussion around the causes and effects of treaties between the US government and Native Americans in Washington state.

### Relevant State Standards:

**Civics, Theme 1:** Understands key ideals and principles of the United States, including those in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and other foundational documents.

**Social Studies Skills, Theme 2:** Uses inquiry-based research.

### Resources:

PRIMARY	SECONDARY	LESSON PLAN	VISUAL
<p><a href="#">Text of Washington State Treaties</a>: Links to seven plain text versions of northwest treaties.  <i>Source: Washington State Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Nation to Nation</a>: A 5-minute video describing the history and importance of treaties between the United States and American Indians.  <i>Source: Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian</i></p>	<p><a href="#">The Fish Wars   What Kinds of Actions Can Lead to Justice?</a>  An online lesson designed for high school that includes videos, essays, interactives, and a teacher’s guide.  <i>Source: Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Native-Land interactive map</a>: An interactive map of Native Land that is searchable by territory, language, and treaty. Includes links for further reading and research.  <i>Source: Native Land Digital</i></p>

### Further Research:

[Learning Activities | Center For The Study of the Pacific Northwest](#): These suggested classroom activities also link to background essays and primary sources on the topic of Northwest treaties.