



HAUBERG ESTATE

Educator Resources

Local Native American History Lesson Plan

LESSON PLAN 2 – approx. grades 4-6



Portrait of Native American family. From the John Henry Hauberg papers, Augustana College Special Collections.

In 1918, ethnologist Truman Michelson recorded the story of an elder Fox (Meskwaki) woman, which describes what her girlhood growing up in Iowa in the 1840s was like. This activity could be paired with a visit to the Hauberg Indian Museum at Black Hawk State Historic Site, which provides information about the home life of Sauk and Meskwaki people.



Mrs. Mary Keokuk, in a chair by the window on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation in Oklahoma. . From the John Henry Hauberg papers, Augustana College Special Collections.

- 1) Read pp. 298-301 of the "[Autobiography of a Fox Woman.](#)" What sorts of activities did she do as a girl? How did she feel about these activities? What activities do you do each day, and how do they compare?
- 2) In the 1840s, Meskwaki children didn't go to a formal school, but learned what they needed to learn at home. What was the Meskwaki girl learning? What does her learning tell you about the Meskwaki way of life in 1840? About the work and responsibilities of women?
- 3) What do you learn at school? What do you do for fun? How do these activities compare to what this girl learns and does for fun?
- 4) In 1840, many white settlers believed that Native American people didn't work hard and were not prepared for the future. What does this girl's life tell us about how Meskwaki people thought about work and the future?

- 5) This story was originally written in the Meskwaki language. See what it looks like by looking at a [text](#) that Meskwaki children today might use to learn their language. Does the story seem different? Why might it be important for Meskwaki children to learn this language today?



Native American children with schoolteachers. 1914. From the John Henry Hauberg papers, Augustana College Special Collections.

- 6) Extension Activities:
- For many Native American groups today, language preservation is an important way to connect to their cultures. What can you learn about Native American languages and how these nations are working to teach the language to children?
 - Watch [this video](#) about the Sauk language. What does it help you understand about how language is related to culture and values? Have you ever learned a new language? What was it like? How would you feel if you could not speak your language?
 - Zitkala-Sa was a Dakota Sioux woman who was sent away to a school run by white people in the 1870s. Read chapters II and III of [“School Days of an Indian Girl.”](#) How does her education compare to the Fox girl’s?



School girls from the Native American Sac and Fox Tribe. 1916. From the John Henry Hauberg papers, Augustana College Special Collections.