

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

WITA TANKA  
Pike Island

**Watch “Sydney D. Beane, Flandreu Santee Sioux Tribe”**

1. What kinds of things have taken place on Pike Island?

**Watch “Ramona Stately, Santee Dakota Nation”**

2. Stately recounts an elder saying, “The Earth knows our footprint; the Earth remembers us, and that is how they know each one of us, our hearts and our souls is through our footprint.” What does this mean to her? What does it mean to you?

**Watch “Autumn Cavender-Wilson”**

3. “It is not a place where there should have been bloodshed. It is not a place where there should be tears.” What does this mean?

4. Why are there mixed feelings, emotions and memories in this area?

5. How is even the nature at Pike Island affected by the history of the place?

6. As a Native person, how does Cavender feel going to Pike Island?

**Watch “This is Our Homeland” and “Photo Slideshow”**

7. What do you feel looking at this? What emotions, memories, phrases, people or places come to mind?

**Click on “Read More”**

**Compare the two historical paintings of Pike Island.**

8. What seems to be going on in each painting? What are the differences and similarities between the two paintings? How does the different color palette change the feel of the painting? Would you want to visit these places? How historically accurate do you think these paintings are; did the artist take some creative license in depicting the subject?

**Click through to the Flickr site for Pike Island or go to this website:**

**<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bdotememorymap/sets/72157623087503954/with/4222847454/>**

9. Choose one of the photos and create your own piece of art inspired by that picture. Your piece of art could be a drawing, a video, a song or poem.

**Read “Pike Treaty” at the end of this worksheet. Compare that with the 1805 Treaty:**

**<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/vol2/treaties/sio1031.htm>**

10. What does the treaty say about what land is being “granted”? Can you draw exact land described on a map? Why or why not?

11. How much were the Sioux given in compensation and when? What was the actual value of the land?

12. What does Article 3 permit the Sioux to do on the land?

13. Why is the validity of the treaty in question? Name at least four reasons.

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14. Do YOU think the treaty is valid? Why or why not? What complicates the issue?



## “Pike” Treaty of 1805

On what is now called Pike’s Island in the Mississippi River, a traditional meeting place for Dakota people, Captain Zebulon Pike negotiated the purchase of several hundred acres on which to build a fort.

- The "Pike" Treaty of 1805 is a flashpoint in the history of Minnesota, the first instance in which the US government negotiated for land within the State's current boundaries. For such an important document, however, the history of this treaty is surrounded by a startling amount of ambiguity and misinformation.
- The boundaries of the land cession were never specified. Nobody knows exactly which 100,000 acres US was buying from the Dakota.
- Only 2 of the 7 Dakota leaders present for the negotiations signed the treaty, calling into question the validity of the treaty from a Dakota point of view.
- The President never "proclaimed" the treaty (a step necessary to make the treaty official), calling into question the validity of the treaty from a government point of view.
- The purchase price is a mystery. At the time of the treaty, Pike mentioned in his journal that the land was worth \$200,000, but an amount was not listed in the treaty. The US Senate arbitrarily set an amount of \$2,000 without consulting the Dakota. Even this amount was not paid until decades later, long after the fort was built.

During negotiations, Pike passed out gifts and whiskey to the Dakota. In an incredible insult to Dakota people, this has been reported time and again as the actual payment for the land. "Reputable" sources such as MPR, the Minnesota Almanac Book of Days, and official State websites repeat the ridiculous notion that the Dakota traded 100,000 acres of land for "trinkets and whiskey."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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WITA TANKA – ANSWER KEY  
Pike Island

**Watch “Sydney D. Beane, Flandreu Santee Sioux Tribe”**

1. What kinds of things have taken place on Pike Island?

Creation stories, trade, festival, barter, a very spiritual place, a gathering place for people.

**Watch “Ramona Stately, Santee Dakota Nation”**

2. Stately recounts an elder saying, “The Earth knows our footprint; the Earth remembers us, and that is how they know each one of us, our hearts and our souls is through our footprint.” What does this mean to her? What does it mean to you?

Stately feels a connection to the earth, that the earth brought her here to Minnesota and knew her spirit. Answers may vary.

**Watch “Autumn Cavender-Wilson”**

3. “It is not a place where there should have been bloodshed. It is not a place where there should be tears.” What does this mean?

Answers may vary.

4. Why are there mixed feelings, emotions and memories in this area?

Cavendar says, “It is the place of our genesis and our genocide.” It is a sacred site for both of those reasons. There a deep connection with the earth, this was Eden, the land took care of us

and we took care of it. The horror and anger, guilt and fear of the concentration camp and the Fort. It was a place of deep psychological trauma.

5. How is even the nature at Pike Island affected by the history of the place?

The Trees can't remember what happened, they were leveled by soldiers. The trees feel that loss because they cannot remember. The ground remembers.

6. As a Native person, how does Cavender feel going to Pike Island?

You feel the anger and sadness, but you feel comfort. This pain you feel as a Native person walking with emptiness, when you go to Pike Island, you feel a sense that you aren't crazy and you aren't alone.

#### **Watch “This is Our Homeland” and “Photo Slideshow”**

7. What do you feel looking at this? What emotions, memories, phrases, people or places come to mind?

Answers may vary.

**Click on “Read More”**

#### **Compare the two historical paintings of Pike Island.**

8. What seems to be going on in each painting? What are the differences and similarities between the two paintings? How does the different color palette change the feel of the painting? Would you want to visit these places? How historically accurate do you think these paintings are; did the artist take some creative license in depicting the subject?

Answers may vary

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10. What does the treaty say about what land is being “granted”? Can you draw exact land described on a map? Why or why not?

“Nine miles square at the mouth of the St. Croix, also from below the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peters, up the Mississippi to include the falls of St. Anthony, extending nine miles on each side of the river.” No, it does not specify the shape of the “miles square”, nor does it indicate where below the confluence the land cession begins, not where it ends.

11. How much were the Sioux given in compensation and when? What was the actual value of the land?

Congress voted to pay \$2,000 to the Sioux, though this decision was not made until after the treaty had been signed and was not paid until much later. The value of the land was at least \$200,000.

12. What does Article 3 permit the Sioux to do on the land?

Pass through the land and hunt.



13. Why is the validity of the treaty in question? Name at least four reasons.

- Not enough of the leaders were present to accurately represent the area.
- The land described is too ambiguous.
- The president never proclaimed the treaty (required to make it legal).
- The purchase price was not actually set in the treaty or officially afterwards.

14. Do YOU think the treaty is valid? Why or why not? What complicates the issue?

Answers may vary.