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This lesson was created by a teacher participating in a Wisconsin ESEA Improving Teacher Quality grant entitled Inquiry Based Technology-Mediated Teacher Professional Development and Application.

Title: Does this Belong to You?

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Grade Level: 4<sup>th</sup>

Subjects: Social Studies, Writing

Objectives: Understanding and appreciation of preserving the past

WI Standards: -Social Studies B.4.10, C.4.1, E.4.6  
-Writing B.4.1

Duration: 40-60 minutes

Materials/Supplies: Writing journal, pencil, Internet

Vocabulary: Repatriation

Background: Native Americans, until recent history, were not treated as equal in the eyes of U.S. Federal Government.

In 1978, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) was passed, recognizing and protecting the right of Native Americans to believe, express, and exercise their traditional religions.

In 1990, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) was passed, stating that American Indians have the right to request the repatriation of human remains and other cultural items now held by federal agencies or federally assisted museums or institutions. NAGPRA contains provisions regarding the intentional excavation and removal of, and illegal trafficking in Native American human remains and cultural items.

Setting the Stage: Class discussion on the following topics:  
-How would you feel if someone took something that belonged to you and

didn't return it?

-What do you do when you find something in the classroom or on the playground that doesn't belong to you?

-How would you feel if someone dug up your grandmother's grave?

- Procedure:
1. Have students journal on the questions stated above.
  2. Tell the students about the AIRFA and the NAGPRA (Background info given above)
  3. After they have heard about the AIRFA and the NADPRA, ask the class to discuss how they feel about someone taking Native American artifacts and bones. Does his seem lawful? Have students' journal about this.
- Closure:
- Students and teacher share their responses about what to do when you find something that doesn't belong to you and whether or not it's right to keep Native American artifacts that are found on public property.
- Evaluation:
- Record the change in awareness from the first to the final journal entries. Keep record of those who participate in class discussion in a meaningful, on-topic way.
- Links/Extension:
1. For some children in fourth grade, taking things that don't belong to you is a big issue. The guidance counselor does lessons on this.
  2. Other issues that come out of this would be accepting and learning to embrace diversity.
  3. Discussion of the preservation of effigy mounds.
  4. Search the Internet for more on the topic of repatriation of American Indian artifacts.
- References:
- DOE Environmental Policy and Guidelines: [www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/laws](http://www.eh.doe.gov/oepa/laws)
  - American Indian Ritual Object Repatriation Foundation  
<http://www.repatriationfoundation.org/>
  - Through Indian Eyes: the Native Experience in Books for Children, Beverly Slapin and Doris Seale, Oyate, 2702 Mathews Street, Berkley, CA 94702