

Otia! Cause and Effect Game



Overview

In this gamified LE, learners think through the consequences of key parts of the Treaty Denial period. Teams of learners will compete to identify possible outcomes of various events of the time period between 1795 and 1985. The word **otia** is an affirmative "Wow!" in Mi'kmaw.

Learners will...

- Work together to think about the Treaty Denial period in a (mildly) competitive game environment.
- Be exposed to a range of issues Mi'kmaw faced during the Treaty Denial period.
- Be encouraged to think about how the challenges of Treaty Denial reverberated through communities and through generations.
- Encounter Mi'kmaw agency and efforts to change the conditions of this difficult time.
- See that oral histories were integral to Mi'kmaw identity and culture through Treaty Denial.

Focus

Divide learners into two or three groups. Working together, learners will identify the consequences of facts about the Treaty Denial period, calling out their answers as they agree upon them. A few examples are shown below. Each impact identified gives that team a point. At the end of the game, the team with the most points wins.

This LE is envisioned as an oral activity, but it could be organized in various ways and have a written component as well.



It is important that learners engaging in this experience have a clear understanding of the following content:

- *The Mi'kmaq as the indigenous people of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic region.*
- *Mi'kma'kik as the ancestral homeland of the Mi'kmaq.*
- *The family as the heart of Mi'kmaw culture and practice.*
- *Understand the concepts of netukulimk and msit no'kmaq. (See LE F4)*
- *Mi'kmaw core cultural values. (See LE F8)*
- *The oral traditions inherent in Mi'kmaw culture and practice. (See LE F10)*
- *That the Treaty Denial period is defined by British governance and culture that denied treaty agreements and by an overwhelming colonial experience of environmental and cultural disruption.*
- *Any content learners carry about the details of Treaty Denial with help them in this LE, but simply thinking carefully is sufficient to participate fully.*

Statement	Possible impacts identified by learners	Actual known impacts (from historic or other records as noted)	Notes
Beginning in the 1920s , the Mersey Pulp and Paper Company built large dams along the Mersey River. The dams flooded more than 100 square kilometres.			
Between 1848 and 1851 , Nova Scotia game wardens outlawed the use of spearing in the rivers as well as in waters above the high-tide water line.			
The Nova Scotia Railway was built between Halifax and Pictou by way of Truro between 1850 and 1870 .			

Sample of the Otia table, showing first few entries

Additional Resources

- For additional resources, see the digital version of this LE at **Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre website:**
<http://mikmaweydebert.ca/t11>