

Stage 1 :	One land rival nations - Opposite perspectives on the conquest of West
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Evidence n°1: THE INGALLS FAMILY: A LIFE ON THE FRONTIER

Charles Ingalls (Laura's father), was born in 1836, in Cuba, State of New York. The family moved many times during Laura's childhood due to Pa's "itching foot" which always wanted to go west.

Feb 1st 1860: Charles Ingalls and Caroline Quiner ("Pa" and "Ma") married at Concord Wisconsin. Laura Ingalls was born on February 7, 1867 in the big woods of Wisconsin in Pepin.

In 1868, the Ingalls moved to Mansfield Missouri. Inspired by the Homestead Act of 1862 which offered 160 acres of "free land" to settlers who would farm and live on it for 5 years, Pa took his family to the prairies. The land Pa chose **in 1869** was in Montgomery, Kansas, within the boundaries of the Osage Indian reserve.

After building a house and planting crops, the Ingalls family was forced to leave in the fall of 1870. Pa heard that the government had changed its mind about opening the land for homesteading in the Indian reserve and that soldiers were on their way to force the settlers out.

Pa took the family to its old house in the big woods (near Pepin, Wisconsin). In **1874**, the Ingalls journeyed west, trading for a small farm near Walnut Grove (Minnesota). The family lived in a dugout until Pa could build a wonderful new house made of sawed boards.

The family moved on to Burr Oak, Iowa, where Pa's friend, Mr Steadman had purchased a hotel.

In 1879 the Ingalls made their final move when Pa was offered a job as a railroad manager in Dakota Territory. They became the first residents of De Smet. Pa filed a claim on 160 acres of land 3 miles southeast of De Smet.

At the age of 15, Laura earned her teaching certificate and started to work as a teacher. On **July 17, 1884**, Laura and her husband left South Dakota. They traveled to Mansfield in the Ozarks mountains of Missouri.

In 1930 Laura wrote her autobiography titled ***The Little House in The Big Woods***. The book was an instant success. Laura died on February 10, 1957 at Rocky Ridge Farm at the age of 90.

Your task:

1. Read the text carefully and plot the journey of the Ingalls on the map.

Make sure you number the different stages.

2. Listen to the instructions of your pair and draw the evolution of the land of the Osage on the map.

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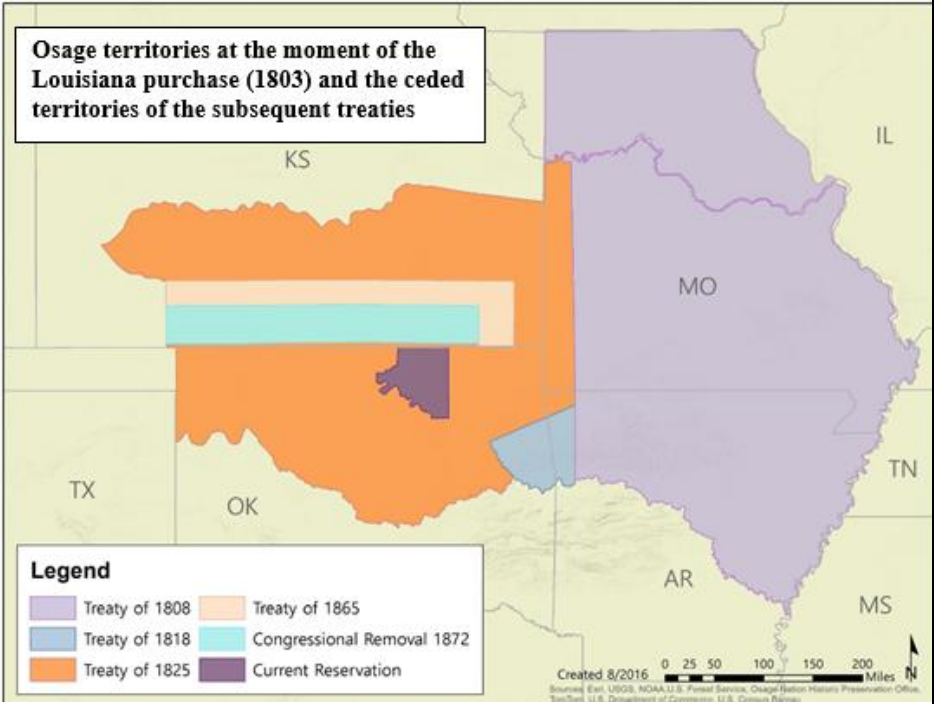
Evidence n°2: THE DIMINSHED LAND OF THE OSAGE

It has been determined that the Osage lived in the Ohio River Valley. About 1,800 years ago, these ancestors began migrating west. They arrived in the St. Louis area about 1,500 years ago. The Osage people again moved westward about 700 years ago. By the time Europeans began exploring the area, about 350 years ago, many Osages were living along the Missouri and Osage rivers in western Missouri.

The Osages once controlled millions of acres in what is now known as Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and Oklahoma. However, in 1803, the United States government made the Louisiana Purchase from France. As part of this agreement, the U.S. claimed ownership of Osage land and billions of other acres in North

America. The U.S. began to force the Osages off their land, to make way for "white" pioneers.

Between 1808 and 1872, the Osages had little choice but to cede all their lands in present-day Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas, and most of their land in Oklahoma, to the U.S. Government. The last land cession was in 1872, when the Osages ceded their reservation in Kansas and moved to a new reservation in Oklahoma. This is the current Osage reservation.

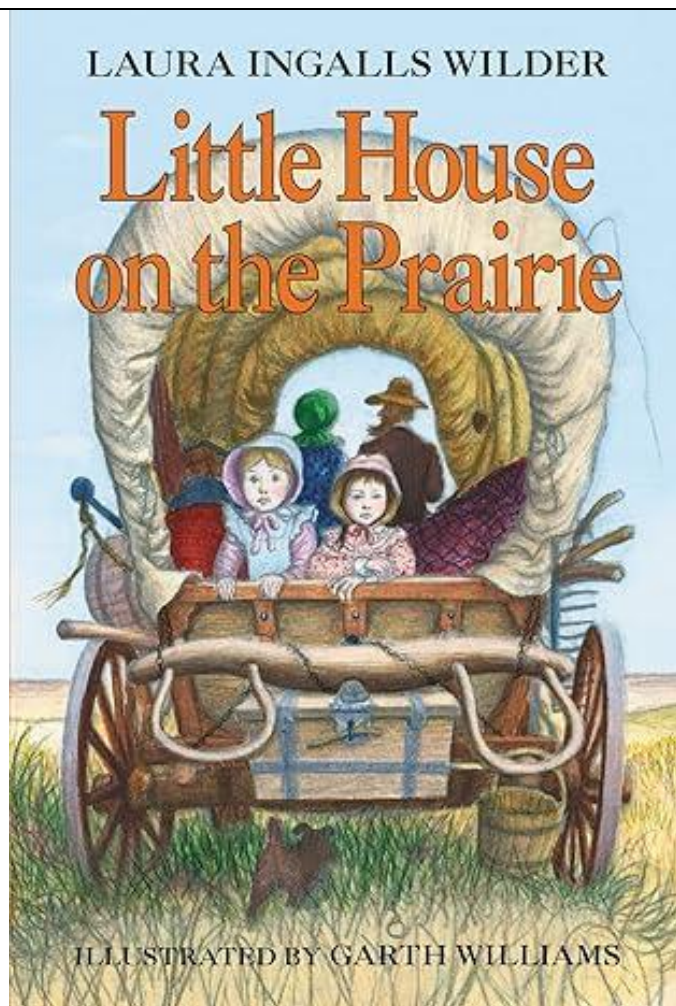


Source: Osage Nation official portal, <https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/>

Your task:

1. Read the text carefully and plot the evolution of the land of the Osage on the map.
2. Listen to the instructions of your pair and plot the journey of the Ingalls on the map. Make sure you number the different stages.

Stage 2:	One land, rival nations: how are the "Indians" presented in the Little House in the prairie?
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Time ranks the *Little House* series as 22 out of 100 of the "100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time." They are considered classics of American children's literature and remain widely read. In a 2012 survey published by *School Library Journal*, *Little House in the Big Woods* was ranked n°19 among all-time best children's novels

Source : Wikipedia

The Little House series:

- *Little House in the Big Woods*
- *Farmer Boy*
- *Little House on the Prairie*
- *On the Banks of Plum Creek*
- *By the Shores of Silver Lake*
- *The Long Winter*
- *Little Town on the Prairie*
- *These Happy Golden Years*

The First Four Years



The Ingalls family

Task 1: (listening activity): Video extract

How are the Indians presented in the Little House in the prairie?

- Anticipation: first look at the image on the screen and speak
- Watch and listen to the 1st Extract. Listen to the words you understand

- Share with your pairs

Extracts of the TV series:

<https://nuage02.apps.education.fr/index.php/s/xMfRbAxZai2qkec>

Task 2: Extract of the book: What questions does the arrival of the settlers raise?

- Read
- Read and highlight with different colours
- Recap in pairs

Task 3: Discussion point:

How useful is the *Little House in the prairie* to understand the relationships between pioneers and native Americans. Then and now?

Extracts:

4/ Prairie Day

"This is Indian country, isn't it?" Laura said. "What did we come to their country for, if you don't like them?"

Ma said she didn't know whether this was Indian country or not. She didn't know where the Kansas line was. But whether or no, Indians would not be here long. Pa had word from a man in Washington that the Indian Territory would be open to settlement soon. It might already be open to settlement. They could not know, because Washington was so far away.

11/ Indians in the house

Laura was frightened. Jack [the dog] had never growled at her before. Then she looked over her shoulder, where Jack was looking, and she saw two naked, wild men coming, one behind the other, on the Indian trail... They were tall, thin, fierce-looking men. Their skin was brownish-red. Their heads seemed to go up to a peak, and the peak was a tuft of hair that stood straight up and ended in feathers. Their eyes were black and still and glittering, like snake's eyes...

She saw their leather moccasins. Then their stringy, bare, red-brown legs, all the way up. Around their waists each of the Indians wore a leather thong, and the furry skin of a small animal hung down in front. The fur was striped black and white, and now Laura knew what made that smell. The skins were fresh skunk skins...

The Indian made two short, harsh sounds in his throat. The other Indian made one sound, like "Hah!". Laura heard Ma take the cover off the bake-oven. She heard the Indians squat down on the earth. After a while she heard them eating... When every crumb of the cornbread was gone, the Indians rose up. They walked across the floor and out through the door. Their feet made no sound at all.

18/ The tall Indian

In those days the norther had howled and screeched across the prairie till it blew itself out. Now the sun was warm and the wind was mild, but there was a feeling of autumn in the air.

Indians came riding on the path that passed so close to the house. They went by as though it were not there. They were thin and brown and bare. They rode their little ponies without saddle

or bridle. They sat up straight on the naked ponies and did not look to right or left. But their black eyes glittered...

"I thought that trail was an old one they didn't use any more," Pa said. "I wouldn't have built the house so close to it if I'd known its' a highroad."

Ma said, "I declare, Indians are getting so thick around here that I can't look up without seeing one." As she spoke she looked up and there stood an Indian. He stood in the doorway, looking at them, and they had not heard a sound.

Pa guessed that he was an Osage. "Unless I miss my guess," Pa said "that was French he spoke. I wish I had picked up some of that lingo."

"Let Indians keep themselves," said Ma, "and we will do the same. I don't like having Indians around."

"That Indian was perfectly friendly," Pa said. "And their camps down among the bluffs are peaceable enough. If we treat them well we won't have any trouble."

One day when Pa was hunting, two Indians came into the house. Those Indians were dirty and scowling and mean. They acted as if the house belonged to them. One of them looked through Ma's cupboard and took all the cornbread. The other took Pa's tobacco-pouch.

"Why do the Indians go west, Ma?" Laura asked

"They have to"

"Why do they have to?"

"The government makes them, Laura," said Pa... "When white settlers come into a country, the Indians have to move on. The government is going to move these Indians farther west, any time now. That's why we're here, Laura. White people are going to settle all this country, and we get the best land because we get here first and take our pick. Now do you understand?"

"Yes, Pa. But, Pa, I thought it was Indian territory. Won't it make the Indians mad to have to"

"No more questions, Laura," Pa said, firmly. "Go to sleep."

Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little house on the prairie*, 1935

Stage 3:	One land, rival nations: who are the legitimate owners of the land?
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1. Contextualisation of the Little House in the Prairie

Chronology of conflicts between the US government and native Americans

1824: The Bureau of Indian Affairs is established with a duty to regulate and settle disputes arising from trade with Indian tribes.

1830: The Indian Removal Act: the government forces the exchange of Indian lands in the east for public land in the west (acquired through the Louisiana purchase), where the tribes can have their own forms of government.

1835: Trail of Tears: the Cherokee give up their lands in Georgia for the Indian Territory of the West (today's Oklahoma)

1851: Fort Laramie treaty (n°1): forces the Indians to give up their right to roam the Great Plains

1860-1872: Massive slaughter of buffalos in order to force Indians to change their way of life and settle

1862: Sioux war in Minnesota

1864: Massacre of Cheyennes at Sand Creek

1871: The US Congress denounces the treaty of Fort Laramie (n°2) and lets pioneers settle in Indian territory (Oklahoma).

1876: Little Bighorn battle won by the allied tribes (Sioux and Cheyenne) against General Custer.

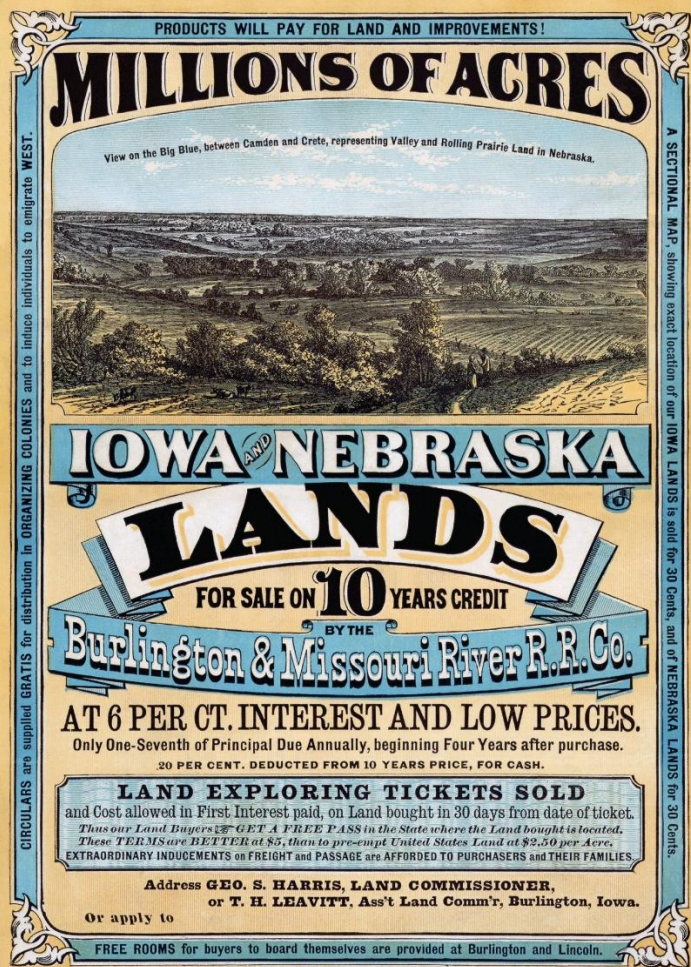
1877: The Nez Percé and their leader Chief Joseph surrenders

1887: Dawes Act: creates Indian reserves much smaller than the ones agreed in 1851

1890: the Sioux that refused to accept the 1887 Act are massacred at Wounded knee, their chief Sitting Bull is murdered

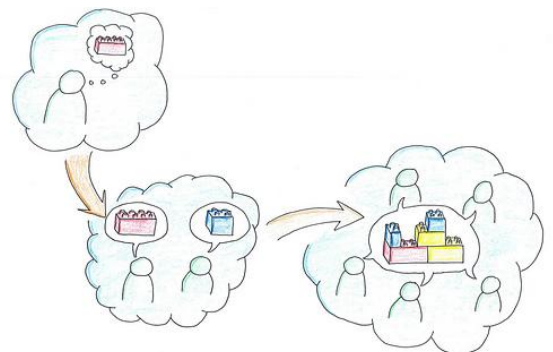
1924: Indian citizenship act : gives the American citizenship to all the native Americans

2. Discussion: Can the Ingalls family be considered as the legitimate owners of the land of their Homestead in Montgomery, Kansas?



The Homestead Act of 1862

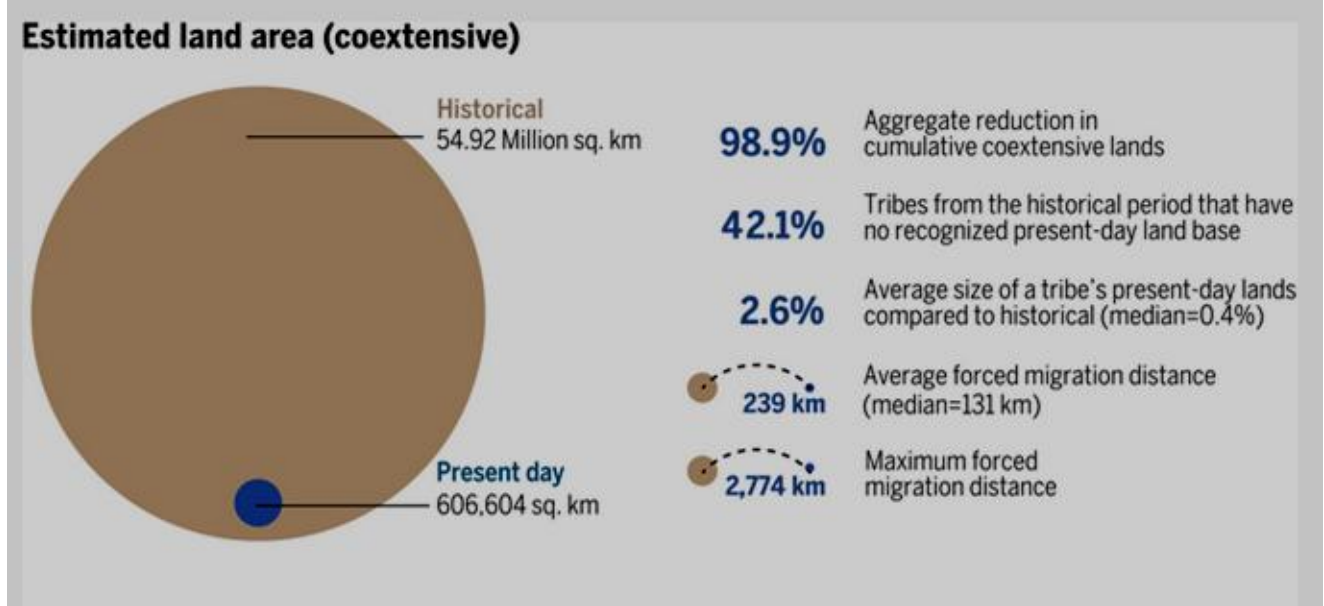
Your task: Think/Pair/Share:



1. Work individually using the documents proposed and write down 3 elements of answer to the question
2. By groups of 4/6: 1 student is in charge of filling in the answer sheet, 1 student is in charge of leading the discussion
3. Students present and discuss their answers

The group must come to a shared opinion on the question asked. The position must be backed by specific arguments

Estimated land owned by the native American nations before and after the conquest of the West



Osage and pioneers, 2 different, (opposed?) uses of the land

Osage indians on the hunt for buffalos, 1832



Breaking the Prairie sod. (University of Saskatchewan Archives)

