

## Activity Templat

- **Title** *Into the West* Discussion Questions and Scene Summaries

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- **Proficiency level**

\_\_\_\_\_ Beginning \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced

- **Grade level** \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary or Higher Ed.

- **Purpose of the activity**

The *Into the West* miniseries was used as a cultural component to Listening/speaking class. Students learned about westward expansion or the United States and the effects on the Native American population. The purpose of this activity is to aid understanding of the film, to check film comprehension and promote discussion. Through discussion the students get a better understanding of the history of this period. The students receive the questions before they view the film. The teacher reviews the questions with the students to make sure all are understood. The students watch the episode in class and have the opportunity to watch it again outside of class with a tutor. The students then complete the questions for homework. Discussion happens in the following class.

- **Type of activity**

- large or small group discussion

- **Objective**

- Indicate the skills and/or areas that are the focus of the lesson. –Listening and speaking
- List any specific TESOL or content-area standards (for your district, state/province, or country) that apply.

- **Duration**

30-45 minutes of discussion per episode. Each film episode is approximately two hours. We divided those in half so approximately 45-60 minutes of class time was spent viewing each part. The students had the option of watching the segment outside of class. Questions were answered for homework. Total in class time for each episode is approximately 3 hours.

- **Materials and technology**

Worksheets are submitted as separate documents.

## TESOL Resource Center – Resource Templates and Guidelines

- **Activity**

This activity is a large or small group discussion following the viewing of the film. Each episode is accompanied by questions which check for understanding of the film and spark discussion of the film and related issues. The scene summaries give the students reference material to refer back to while answering the questions or participating in discussion.

Students are given the questions before watching each episode of the film. The teacher goes over the questions to make sure all students understand what is being asked. The film is viewed in class, but the students have the option of viewing it again outside of class with a tutor. The comprehension questions are assigned for homework. During the next class period there is a large group discussion of the questions. The answers often sparked further discussion of the film. Further discussion was sometimes done with the whole group, but there were times I broke the class into smaller groups. This gave a different atmosphere and encouraged participation from those quieter students

- **Useful Links**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Into the West \(miniseries\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Into_the_West_(miniseries))