

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Louisiana Purchase - To sell or not to sell

Imagine that your family belongs to the Cheyenne tribe in the Great Plains of the United States. Your family makes a living by hunting, trading and farming. The year is 1805 and your tribe has recently learned that United States government has purchased the land where you live. Many Cheyenne people are not happy with this purchase because they fear that Americans will destroy their way of life and continue to move onto their land. Your chief has refused to acknowledge this purchase and vows to fight any Americans which move onto your land.

Your family is very large and occupies the biggest piece of land in the tribe. The government has offered to pay you and your family \$5,000 for your piece of land and give you land in the southwest desert several hundred miles west of where your family has lived for generations. In return, you must leave peacefully and attempt to convince the rest of your tribe to do the same. It is against tribal policy to sell individual land because your tribe believes that the land belongs to all of your people and therefore, no one has the right to sell a part of the land. If you sell your land then your tribe will look down upon you and your family. Plus, there might be possible retaliations in the form of violence. Will you choose to sell your land against the wishes of your tribe in order to protect the interests of you and your family? Or will you vow to stand and fight with your chief?

In your groups come up with as many pros and cons for selling your land.

Pro	Con

Next you will have a discussion in your group about which option is better. Use the sentences frames provided to help guide your discussion:

What do you think about...?

I would add...

Can you add to this idea?

I want to follow up on your idea...

Do you agree?

Then again, I think that...

What might be other points of view?

Another way to look at this would be...

What are other ideas?

So, you are arguing...

Next the 1's and 3's in your group will argue that you should sell your land and move. The 2's and 4's will argue that you should not sell your land.

Time to write your claim including two reasons to support your claim:

Some people say (the opposite of what you believe) _____ however, I would (circle one) sell not sell my land because

Reason 1	Reason 2

Put it all together. Write your claim below. Include a counter-claim:

Homework:

Is it all right to sell that belongs to an entire tribe in order to protect the interests of you and your family? Why or why not? Would you have the right to sell the land even though it is against tribal policy?
