

# Neolithic Settlement Activity

Day One of Sixth Grade Unit



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**Time:** Two 45 minute class periods

**Grade Level:** 6

## Background:

Students will experience the concepts of cooperation and human-environment interactions from the point of view of Neolithic farmers. Students must make decisions about resources, land-use and location that will determine their survival as they strive to settle an area for farming. Students will work in “tribal” teams in order to understand the need for cooperation, leadership and communication within tribes.

## Objective(s):

Students will interact in groups to analyze available land for settlement in a hypothetical settlement reenactment.

## Advanced Preparation:

Prepare a basic map of the school grounds where you will be conducting this lesson. Imagine that landmarks on the school grounds represent natural landscape features and convert the map accordingly (e.g. a building can be labeled as a mountain). Mark the location of a water source, such as a spring or river. Highlight any dangerous areas that students should avoid.

## Materials:

School yard maps (one per family head)

Clipboards and pencils for each family head and tribal leader

## Procedure:

1. Students will choose a Tribe Leader and a Tribe Name for their class. The Tribe Leader will be in charge of following the guidelines for the settlement project and will make sure all sub-groups cooperatively work together to complete their assigned tasks.
2. The Class will divide themselves into Family Groups. The Tribe Leader has to approve each family as it is formed, and must make sure that each student is part of the family. No family may be larger than 5 individuals, nor smaller than 2 individuals.
3. Each Family group will choose a Head for their family. This person will report directly to the Tribe Leader and will make sure that all members of the family are cared for and have a job to assure the Family’s survival in the new settlement. Other jobs for family members include:
  - **Elder:** assists the Family Head with his or her duties
  - **Historian:** writes down the findings and activities of the family
  - **Peacekeeper:** assures that family members cooperate and agree upon family activities
  - **Navigator:** reads the map and keeps the family in the explored and approved areas of the settlement

NOTE: ALL family members are to help wherever needed in measuring and determining the areas for settlement, if told to do so by the Family Head or Tribal Leader.

4. The Tribe will measure the available plots of land for settlement using a standard basis of measurement – the foot (see example of how to set up a map of your school at the end of this lesson). The Tribe Leader will make sure that all families are involved in the measuring process. All four plots of land for settlement must be measured and all Family Heads must agree to the measurements before they report them to the

Tribe Leader.

5. The plot measurements will be recorded by each Family Head, and after all four plots are measured, the Family Head will report the measurements to the Tribe Leader.
6. The Tribe will return to the classroom where they will discuss the following questions:
  - What were some challenges in communication in your Family and/or your Tribe? (Some comments might include: the leaders were too bossy, nobody was listening, it was hard to agree with each other, etc.)
  - What were some challenges in the measurement of the plots? (Some comments might include: everybody used a different type of measurement, we couldn't figure out how to measure, some areas were easier or harder to measure because....)
  - What considerations must be made in your choice of plots for settlement, farming and/or grazing? (Students should already understand that they need water and flat, fertile soil for farming...they may have other considerations depending on the area being settled however).
  - Where would your Family/Tribe choose to live/farm/graze and why? (Some considerations: size of family, amount of land needed for food, houses, etc., proximity to water, distance from hazards, etc.)
7. To close, each students will share with the class one aspect of survival that they considered while participating in the activity.
8. Follow-up this lesson in Math with Day Two of Neolithic Settlement Activity.

**Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated by teacher observation of their discussion, the measuring activity and their answers to the closing questions.

**Arizona Standards**

**Social Studies**

Geography

C6-GR6-PO1

C5-GR6-8-PO1 .

C4-GR6-PO3



## Tribal Leader Role and Responsibilities

Your main job is to supervise your tribe members during the activity, and to make sure that Family Heads and their families are working together cooperatively to complete their assigned tasks. *THEREFORE, you must read and know all of the Role and Responsibilities of the Family Heads so that you can assist them or keep them on task during the activity.\**

Each family member must be assigned one of the following jobs:

**Family Head** – main decision-maker and in charge of all family activities. The only family member who can speak directly to the Tribal Leader.

**Elder** – assists the Family Head with his or her duties

**Historian** – writes down the findings and activities of the family

**Peacekeeper** – assures that family members cooperate and agree upon family activities and duties

**Navigator** – reads the map and keeps the family in the explored and approved areas of the settlement

**All family members will help wherever needed in measuring, determining the areas for settlement, supervising, etc., if asked to do so by the Tribe Leader or their Family Head.**

NOTE: A person's failure to perform their job or follow directions may lead to that person dying or being exiled, at your discretion. Death or exile means that the person will sit out for the remainder of the activity.

Using the Settlement map provided, work with the Family Heads to determine which four plots of land must be measured for settlement.

All families are to measure each of the four sections of territory for settlement. Then the Family Heads will meet together to agree upon the final measurement numbers.

If there is a measurement dispute, it is your job to send members of each family back to the disputed territory to re-measure. The final measurement numbers agreed upon by all Family Heads will be used.

A territory is finally measured when you and all Family Heads agree upon the measurement numbers for that area.

Record the measurement numbers on a master Settlement Map.

**\*IF FOR ANY REASON YOU FEEL THAT YOU CANNOT PERFORM THE DUTIES OF TRIBAL LEADER, YOU MAY TELL YOUR FACILITATOR (TEACHER) AND ANOTHER PERSON WILL BE CHOSEN FOR THAT JOB. YOU WILL THEN JOIN A FAMILY GROUP.**



### Family Head Role and Responsibilities

1. After you have received this role sheet from your Tribe Leader, read it carefully and completely, so that you understand your responsibilities. Failure to do so may put your family at risk of death or exile.\*
  2. *Your main job is to assure your family's survival!* You will report all family activities directly to the Tribe Leader. You must also assign each family member a job and make sure that their welfare is protected.
  3. Each family member must be assigned one of the following jobs:
    - Family Head** – main decision-maker and in charge of all family activities. The only family member who can speak directly to the Tribal Leader.
    - Elder** – assists the Family Head with his or her duties
    - Historian** – writes down the findings and activities of the family
    - Peacekeeper** – assures that family members cooperate and agree upon family activities and duties
    - Navigator** – reads the map and keeps the family in the explored and approved areas of the settlement
- All family members will help wherever needed when asked to do so by their Family Head or Tribe Leader.**
4. Record you family members' jobs on the back of your role sheet.
  5. Use the Settlement Map with Tribe Leader and other Family Heads to determine the location of the plots of land to be measured.
  6. Decide with your family members how the land will be measured. (The standard basis of measurement is the foot – Neolithic people didn't have rulers or measuring tapes!) All members of your family must be involved in the measurement process. All methods of measurement for each area **MUST BE** the same.
  7. Meet with the other Family Heads and reach an agreement about the correct measurement of each plot of land. Once agreement is reached, then report your findings to the Tribal Leader who will record the final measurements on a master Settlement Map.

\**Death* may occur if a person enters a Hazardous Area, or wanders away from the designated Settlement Area. *Exile* of a person, or entire Family, may occur if that person or Family refuses to do their jobs, chooses not to participate, or fails to complete their assigned task in the allotted time.

NOTE: BOTH DEATH OR EXILE OF A PERSON OR FAMILY MAY OCCUR AT THE DISCRETION OF THE TRIBE LEADER OR THE FACILITATOR OF THE ACTIVITY (TEACHER).

# Student Handout

Example Map of Settlement Locations

