NEWS BREAK

Article: For Maui’s future, Native Hawaiians push for honoring its past

Section: MAIN, A1

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, October 22, 2023, of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.*

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will learn about the devastation of the Lahaina Fires, and the cultural artifacts and museums that were destroyed. They will learn some history of the Hawaiian people and how colonialism impacted the loss of their land and their sovereignty. We will learn about how they want to rebuild the area, what cultural places they would like to restore and specific pieces they want returned-that were stolen from sacred sites.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“The history of Lahaina, though — and the history of its most famous tree — is complicated, intertwined with the painful loss of land and sovereignty for Native Hawaiians.”

Sovereignty Guess:

Sovereignty Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. To the outside world, there has been no more vivid symbol of the storied history of Lahaina, and its potential for rebirth, than a 150-year-old tree in the center of town whose scarred branches are now, two months after a devastating wildfire, sprouting new, green leaves.
2. And when President Joe Biden visited Maui after the fire, he pointed to the tree as a metaphor for what two things?
3. For many of those descendants, the banyan tree is a remnant of______________, planted by a son of missionaries who helped overthrow the Hawaiian kingdom, which in turn paved the way for annexation by the United States five years later and, eventually, statehood.
4. The fire, which swept across West Maui on Aug. 8, took ______ lives, more than any American wildfire in more than a century.
5. Along with that human toll was the loss of so much history, including what?
6. Now, as conversations about rebuilding Lahaina take shape, Native Hawaiians, fearful their town will be turned into a glitzy tourist hub like Waikiki in Honolulu, are demanding what?
7. So far, authorities have not let people back into town to recover historical __________, and that has left archaeologists like Kimberly Flook, deputy director of the foundation, worried that time is running out.
8. From what she has seen, pieces of Lahaina’s history are waiting to be ________________________.
9. What pieces has she seen poking out of the ash and rubble?
10. The __________________ Institution has stepped in to provide supplies to clean recovered objects, plus boxes and tents to store items, along with personal protective equipment for people doing the recovery work.
11. For Native Hawaiians, one of the most acutely felt losses was the destruction of the Na ‘Aikane o Maui Cultural and Research Center. What took place here? What was stored here?
12. As talk turns to the future, and how history should shape rebuilding of Lahaina, many hope the fire can be a catalyst to elevate Native Hawaiian history that often felt overshadowed by stories of what?
13. What was Moku’ula and why is there a push to restore it?
14. And there are fresh calls for a Berlin museum to return a statue of Hawaiian deity __________________ that was taken from Moku’ula by a German microbiologist doing leprosy research on the island in the 1880s.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought ____________, but now I think ____________?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?

“There’s this growing sentiment that Native Hawaiians are actually really sick and tired of listening to stories about the banyan tree,” said Adam Keawe Manalo-Camp, a writer and researcher who specializes in Native Hawaiian history.

- Why do you think Native Hawaiians are tired of the banyan tree as a symbol?
- What was the historical significance? Who planted it?
“You have to pay honor and respect to the beginning for us to be able to move forward.”

- Do you think this is an accurate statement? Why or why not?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register online or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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