



Ceding Contempt
A STUDY AID

Arriving to Minnesota – Introduction and Chapitre un

1. Can you locate an image of Minnesota's Territorial Seal? What does the image mean to you?
2. The main character, Frank Blackwell Mayer, traveled to Minnesota by steamboat. How did the steamboat play a significant role in the early history of Minnesota?
3. Imagine you are a Dakota Indian living in Minnesota in the early 1800's. As more and more white settlers arrive in the region, how would that make you feel?

St. Paul and Kaposia – Chapitres deux et trois

1. How did the City of St. Paul get its name and who played an important role in its founding?
2. There were many different groups of people living in St. Paul in 1851. Can you name some of these groups? Why do you think there was such a wide variety of people and cultures in the city?
3. Who was Dr. Thomas Williamson and what role did he play on the Minnesota frontier? What do you think of the work he did?
4. Imagine you are meeting Chief Little Crow in the year 1851. What would you ask him? What would you want him to know about you?

Fort Snelling and Camp at Traverse des Sioux – Chapitres quatre et cinq

1. In Chapitre quatre, Agent Nathaniel McLean describes the "Indian System" in Minnesota. What do you think about the "Indian System" and how would you have made it different?
2. What is "Bdote" and why is it important to know this place? Is Bdote a place you can visit?
3. Who was Henry Sibley and why was he an important part of Minnesota history?
4. Imagine that you are at the camp at the Traverse des Sioux in 1851. What kind of things would you see? What kind of people would you meet?

Camp Life – Chapitres six et sept

1. Identify the separate Dakota bands living in Minnesota in 1851. Why was it important for all of the Dakota bands to be present at the treaty negotiations?
2. Things like the Doty Treaty, the Traders' Paper, and Manifest Destiny all sought to control and manipulate the American Indians. How does that make you feel? Why do you think that is a part of our history?

Signing of the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux – Chapitres huit, neuf, et dix

1. Why did the United States Government wish to purchase land from the Dakota Indians? If you were a Dakota Indian, would you sell your land and move to a reservation?
2. The Treaty of the Traverse des Sioux involved many traders. Can you identify the two main trading firms involved? Why did the traders play such a major role in the treaty process?
3. What was a Voyageur and what role did they play in the frontier history of Minnesota?

Signing of the Treaty of Mendota – Chapitres onze et douze

1. The Treaty of Mendota was signed on a hill known as Pilot Knob. Why do you think the Dakota wished to negotiate the treaty here? Can you visit Pilot Knob today?
2. The treaty promised to provide many things to the Dakota such as schools, physicians, farms, mills, and blacksmith shops. However, Chief Wabasha said that he did not want these things. Why do you think Chief Wabasha did not want these things?
3. In your own words, what were the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota?

Madison Sweeter, friend or foe – Chapitres treize, quatorze, quinze, et seize

1. What steps did the Dakota Indians take to prevent the money promised them in the treaty from being paid to the traders?
2. Madison Sweetser professed to work on behalf of the Dakota Indians, but in reality he sought to exploit the Dakota Indians and take their money. Unfortunately, many others also sought to exploit the Dakota Indians. What result did this have on the Dakota and on their future in Minnesota?

Looking back and looking forward – Epilogue and more

1. The Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota were a complicated and complex part of Minnesota history. How did it make you feel to learn about what happened? What can you do to improve upon our past and create a better future?
2. Do you know the difference between a primary and a secondary source? Can you identify one primary, and one secondary source used by the author? Why is it important to document the sources we use and how does it help future historians?

3. Imagine you are a historian. After reading this book, what are you curious to learn more about? What further research would you do?

