AIM

To understand the problems of interpreting the law in relation to Indian rights.

Lance's family depends on the resources of the sea. Like other Northwestern Indian tribes, they have a strong sense of responsibility for the welfare of the fish. They hold onto their fishing rights guaranteed by treaties as one remaining expression of their Indian identity.

In recent years these fishing rights have been questioned by sport fishermen, Commercial fishermen, and the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Game. All these people went to court in the state of Washington and a decision was finally reached in June, 1975.

MOCK TRIAL

In order to better understand these four different points of view, each Four Winds group should study one. Set up a court room with a judge and jury (the whole class). Each Four Winds group will present its case before the judge.

After all four cases have been heard the whole Council Lodge (class) will vote on whose rights should be favored.

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE!

You may use some of the information listed on the back but may need to use other resources like the book Uncommon Controversy, 1970, U. of Washington Press.

The graph below may also be useful to your case.

WASHINGTON STATE SALMON LANDINGS, ALL SPECIES, IN NUMBERS OF FISH YEARLY, 1950-67
Washington Indian Fishing Rights

The troubles over Indian fishing rights began in the mid 1950's. In the late 1960's the tensions between Indians and sportsmen sometimes led to violent confrontations in Washington State.

Indian Tribes
Indians believe that they have the right to fish in the rivers, whether on or off their reservations, as stated in the old treaties. When trying to fish they have been harassed by state fish and game officers and sports fishermen. Some nets have been destroyed and gear has been taken and not returned.

Indian fishermen also claimed that pressure from the state has kept fish buyers from buying the fish caught off the reservation. Conservation of the fish has always been essential to the economic and social well being of the tribe. They depend on fishing for their livelihood.

In the Indian view the right to fish cannot be bought or sold. Without fishing, life would not be the same as it had been in the past and would lose its meaning.

Sports Fishermen
The number of sports fishermen continues to increase. These men do not like Indians fishing off reservations because their nets catch the steelhead in the rivers. They think Indian net fishing will endanger their restocking program. Besides Indians should have to obey the same state laws as everyone else.

Commercial Fishermen
These men face tight controls by the state and often are hit with restrictions on short notice depending on the conditions and numbers of fish. They generally do not feel in direct competition with Indian fishermen.

State Fish and Game Departments
The state is responsible for regulating the natural resources. All citizens should be treated the same. The state does not need the federal government telling it how to manage its resources. The state feels it has been practicing good conservation measures and Indian fishermen are taking too many fish.

HAVE YOUR TEACHER READ THE BOLT FISH DECISION OF 1975 AFTER YOU VOTE.
To realize how much power there is in being able to choose from alternatives. To review stories in the Level V Series.

Lance in Stories of an Indian Boy did not like to fight people who teased him about his long hair. His friend Jeff, however, did. Both boys made their own choice. Lance also chose to have his hair cut while Jeff did not.

MANY CHARACTERS IN THE OTHER STORIES YOU HAVE READ ALSO MADE CHOICES - SOME GOOD, SOME BAD!

See if you can remember the choices made in these stories.

1. In A Young Warrior and Indian Love Story the young warrior made a choice which affected his sweetheart. What was it?

2. In Coyote Changes the Seasons, Coyote chose to become the sun. He realized, however, that he had made a mistake. He still had a choice and decided to

3. In How Horses Came to The Gros Ventre the boy made several wrong choices. Name three.

A. __________________________
B. __________________________
C. __________________________

Name a couple good choices.

A. __________________________
B. __________________________
4. The young girl in How Big Dipper and North Star Came to Be made a choice when told not to open the tepee flaps when someone came asking for help. What was it? ____________

What happened? _______________________

5. What choice did Coyote make in Do What You Are Told? _______________________

Like all these story characters, you have the power to choose. Think of the choices you have made both good and bad.

USE WISELY, YOUR POWER TO CHOOSE

• Choose to love ... rather than hate.
• Choose to laugh ... rather than cry.
• Choose to create ... rather than destroy.
• Choose to heal ... rather than wound.
• Choose to give ... rather than steal.
• Choose to act ... rather than procrastinate.
• Choose to persevere ... rather than quit.

Your misfortunes will be your own fault.

YET, YOU ARE CAPABLE OF GREAT WONDERS. YOUR CHOICES ARE UNLIMITED!

Think about your dreams and choices for the future. What were the dreams of the following characters?

• Lance in Stories of An Indian Boy
• White Horse Woman in White Rabbit
• Joseph in Joseph's Long Journey

Write on a sheet of paper at least five choices for your future. Think about what things you will have to do to make each choice really turn out well and remember ...

YOU ARE UNIQUE: THE GREATEST MIRACLE IN THE WORLD. ENJOY THIS DAY! MAKE THE MOST OF IT TODAY ... AND TOMMOROW, TOMMOROW.