

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Pre-Game Activity:

### The Advance of the Rutherians

### MISSION 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey"

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#### A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

The following role-play is designed as an introductory activity, and should be completed before your students begin playing Mission 3: "A Cheyenne Odyssey." Its purpose is to sensitize your students to the advantages and disadvantages of cooperation between two very different societies. It also helps to define key concepts and vocabulary (negotiation, treaty, cooperation, resistance, reservation) related to the encounter between the United States and the Plains Indians, though it is not intended as an exact parallel.

Your students will be asked to consider whether or not cooperation with a race of strange and powerful extra-terrestrials would benefit or harm their community. The aliens have asked to use some land in the United States to build colonies. Students will decide whether 1) to negotiate treaties that permit limited settlement of aliens in their homeland or 2) refuse to participate in treaty negotiations and resist any alien settlement.

The graphic organizer will help students describe the advantages and disadvantages of a possible treaty in order to develop a pro- or anti- stance on cooperation.

Feel free to adapt or amend the activity to best meet your curricular goals and the needs of your students.

#### Steps to Complete:

- 1) Distribute to your students (and/or read aloud) the background information about the National Commission on Inter-Galactic Exploration and Extra-Terrestrial Affairs (NCIGEETA).
- 2) Ask your students for their immediate reactions to the question: "Should the president negotiate with the Rutherians or refuse to engage in any further diplomatic interactions?" Accept all student answers.
- 3) Divide students into small groups of 4-5 students each. Ask each group to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of interacting with the Rutherians, and to complete the accompanying organizer.
- 4) After students have had an opportunity to discuss their opinions, ask each group what they would recommend as the president's next step.
- 5) To extend the activity, students can share their perspectives in a debate or a mock presentation to the NCIGEETA. As a homework assignment, students can also present their opinions by writing a letter to the Commission or an editorial for their local newspaper.
- 6) Explain to your students that they will soon be playing MISSION US: "A Cheyenne Odyssey," and the characters in the game will be grappling with the same sorts of issues and problems presented in their discussions of a possible treaty with the Rutherians. However, the characters and setting of the game depict real people in a very real place and time: the Plains Indians of North America in the mid-nineteenth century.



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*Background Information:*

**The National Commission on Inter-Galactic Exploration and Extra-Terrestrial Affairs (NCIGEETA)**

You are a member of an advisory committee representing your town or city at a meeting of the National Commission on Inter-Galactic Exploration and Extra-Terrestrial Affairs (NCIGEETA).

Over the past few years, NASA and the US State Department have made contact with the nation of Rutheria, a race of humanoid aliens from the planet Alpha Rutha in the Andromeda Galaxy.

The Rutherians claim to be peaceful, and are seeking inter-galactic alliances in order to create colonies, since their planet has become overpopulated.

The Rutherians possess several complex technologies. For example, teleportation is safe and commonplace on Alpha Rutha. Their medical knowledge could cure some of Earth's most deadly diseases. The Rutherians have sophisticated methods of food production that result in high yields of nutritious foods without depleting the soil. They have an abundance of rare earth elements (REE's) that are used for renewable, clean energy, and high-beam laser cannons. However, a year ago, a rogue group of Rutherians attacked a town in California, killing a dozen townspeople, and rumors are that Rutherians don't always keep their word.

Recently, the Rutherians have proposed a treaty between the United States and the citizens of Alpha Rutha. The treaty would allow Rutherians to establish trial colonies in the United States, while reserving most of the land for American citizens. One of these trial colonies will be located within fifty miles of your town or city. The question being debated by the National Commission is: **Should the president negotiate with the Rutherians, or refuse to engage in any further diplomatic interactions?**

As a member of the advisory committee, be prepared to represent your town or city's position at a meeting of the National Commission, to be held in Washington, D.C. Consider what your town or city might gain or lose from a possible treaty with the Rutherians. Use the chart on the next page to weigh the advantages and disadvantages, and to develop your argument.

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**The National Commission on Inter-Galactic Exploration and Extra-Terrestrial Affairs**  
**(NCIGEETA)**  
**OFFICIAL MEMO**

<b>ADVANTAGES</b> of signing a treaty with the Rutherians	<b>DISADVANTAGES</b> of signing a treaty with the Rutherians

Should the president negotiate with the Rutherians, or refuse to engage in any further diplomatic interactions?

Our recommendation:

Continue negotiations

Refuse to engage in further interaction

