

**Directions for Wisconsin Territory and Statehood Role Play**  
**Prepared by Ava L. McCall**

1. Print role sheets on different colored paper so group members with the same color can meet together to discuss their different positions on whether Wisconsin should remain a territory or become a state.
2. Assign students to one of four different roles and distribute a role sheet to each student.
3. Ask all the students playing European American males to meet together to discuss all the reasons they want Wisconsin to become a state.
4. Ask all the students playing Ho-Chunk males to meet together to discuss all the reasons they want Wisconsin to become a state.
5. Ask all the students playing European American females to meet together to discuss all the reasons they do not want Wisconsin to become a state.
6. Ask all the students playing Menominee females to meet together to discuss all the reasons they do not want Wisconsin to become a state.
7. Once each group feels confident in explaining their position about statehood, have students with the same color paper meet together to discuss their different positions about Wisconsin becoming a state.
8. Encourage each member of each group to share their views and try to convince others in their group to agree with them. Each group should arrive at a consensus for why Wisconsin should remain a territory or become a state and be ready to explain their reasons for their decision to the rest of the class.
9. Ask each group to report their decision about statehood to the class, along with the reasons for their decision.
10. As a class, summarize important ideas and what students learned from the role plays.

## **Wisconsin Territory and State Role Play (European American male)**

### **Directions for first activity:**

- 1. Meet with the others who have the same role as you (European American male).**
- 2. Together read and discuss the reasons why Wisconsin should become a state.**
- 3. Make sure you are ready to explain your reasons to others who have a different role.**

### **Directions for second activity:**

- 4. Meet with others who have the same color paper, but different roles.**
- 5. Make sure each person has a chance to talk. Explain your reasons for why Wisconsin should become a state. Listen to other reasons from your group members for Wisconsin remaining a territory or becoming a state.**
- 6. As a group, decide if Wisconsin should remain a territory or become a state and the reasons for your decision.**
- 7. Be ready to explain your decision and reasons to the rest of the class.**

### **Your role: European American male**

**Pretend it is 1836 before Wisconsin became a state. At that time, people disagreed about whether Wisconsin should become a state or remain a territory.**

**You are a free, European American male.**

You are 25 years old.

**You want Wisconsin to become a state** because you can vote for governor and representative to the state legislature.

You can also vote for president of the United States and representatives to the United States Congress if Wisconsin becomes a state.

If Wisconsin becomes a state, you can become a leader in the state or national government.

You want Wisconsin to become a state because you will have the same rights as other white males throughout the United States.

You want Wisconsin to become a state because other white males like you will likely move to Wisconsin.

You want Wisconsin to become a state because the United States Congress will give Wisconsin land for education buildings, roads, and bridges.

## **Wisconsin Territory and State Role Play (Ho-Chunk male)**

### **Directions for first activity:**

- 1. Meet with the others who have the same role as you (Ho-Chunk male).**
- 2. Together read and discuss the reasons why Wisconsin should become a state.**
- 3. Make sure you are ready to explain your reasons to others who have a different role.**

### **Directions for second activity:**

- 4. Meet with others who have the same color paper, but different roles.**
- 5. Make sure each person has a chance to talk. Explain your reasons for why Wisconsin should become a state. Listen to other reasons from your group members for Wisconsin remaining a territory or becoming a state.**
- 6. As a group, decide if Wisconsin should remain a territory or become a state and the reasons for your decision.**
- 7. Be ready to explain your decision and reasons to the rest of the class.**

### **Your role: Ho-Chunk male**

**Pretend it is 1836 before Wisconsin became a state. At that time, people disagreed about whether Wisconsin should become a state or remain a territory.**

**You are a Ho-Chunk male.**

You are 30 years old and live away from other Ho-Chunk people. You try to live like European American men, not Ho-Chunk men.

**You want Wisconsin to become a state** because you can vote for governor and representative to the state legislature.

You can also vote for president of the United States and representatives to the United States Congress if Wisconsin becomes a state.

You cannot be a leader in state or national government, but you can have a voice in government if Wisconsin becomes a state.

You want Wisconsin to become a state because you will have the same rights as white males throughout the United States.

## **Wisconsin Territory and State Role Play (European American female)**

### **Directions for first activity:**

- 1. Meet with the others who have the same role as you (European American female).**
- 2. Together read and discuss the reasons why Wisconsin should remain a territory.**
- 3. Make sure you are ready to explain your reasons to others who have a different role.**

### **Directions for second activity:**

- 4. Meet with others who have the same color paper, but different roles.**
- 5. Make sure each person has a chance to talk. Explain your reasons for why Wisconsin should remain a territory. Listen to other reasons from your group members for Wisconsin remaining a territory or becoming a state.**
- 6. As a group, decide if Wisconsin should remain a territory or become a state and the reasons for your decision.**
- 7. Be ready to explain your decision and reasons to the rest of the class.**

### **Your role: European American female**

**Pretend it is 1836 before Wisconsin became a state. At that time, people disagreed about whether Wisconsin should become a state or remain a territory.**

**You are a free, European American female.**

You are 21 years old.

**You want Wisconsin to remain a territory** because you cannot vote for the president and representatives to the United States Congress if Wisconsin becomes a state.

No one like you can become part of the Wisconsin government or the United States government if Wisconsin becomes a state.

You want Wisconsin to remain a territory because you do not want the United States government to tell you what to do if Wisconsin becomes a state.

You want Wisconsin to remain a territory because you do not want to pay any state or federal taxes to pay for the state or federal government or any services the government provides. If Wisconsin becomes a state, you will have to pay taxes.

## **Wisconsin Territory and State Role Play (Menominee female)**

### **Directions for first activity:**

- 1. Meet with the others who have the same role as you (Menominee female).**
- 2. Together read and discuss the reasons why Wisconsin should remain a territory.**
- 3. Make sure you are ready to explain your reasons to others who have a different role.**

### **Directions for second activity:**

- 4. Meet with others who have the same color paper, but different roles.**
- 5. Make sure each person has a chance to talk. Explain your reasons for why Wisconsin should remain a territory. Listen to other reasons from your group members for Wisconsin remaining a territory or becoming a state.**
- 6. As a group, decide if Wisconsin should remain a territory or become a state and the reasons for your decision.**
- 7. Be ready to explain your decision and reasons to the rest of the class.**

### **Your role: Menominee female**

**Pretend it is 1836 before Wisconsin became a state. At that time, people disagreed about whether Wisconsin should become a state.**

**You are a Menominee female.**

You are 30 years old and live with other Menominee people. You follow Menominee culture and traditions on your reservation.

**You want Wisconsin to remain a territory** because you cannot vote for the president and representatives to the United States Congress if Wisconsin becomes a state.

No one like you can become part of the Wisconsin government or the United States government if Wisconsin becomes a state.

You want Wisconsin to remain a territory because you do not want the United States government to tell you and your people what to do on your reservation any more than it already does.

You want Wisconsin to remain a territory because you do not want other European Americans or European immigrants to move to the territory. If more European Americans or European immigrants moved to Wisconsin, they might want the land on your reservation. You might lose your reservation.