**Case Study: Treaty 9**

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| Admonition –  | Oration -  |
| Tract –  | Vocation -  |

Treaty 9 (or the James Bay Treaty) was signed between 1905 and 1906, with additional lands

added in 1929–1930 to cover all of northern Ontario.

In the Heritage Minute ‘Naskumituwin’ (meaning an agreement between two people, or a treaty, in Cree), Rosary Spence recounts the making of Treaty 9 as it was told to her by her great-grandfather George Spence, a historical witness to the signing in Fort Albany.

Like many treaties, the historical record on Treaty 9 remains in dispute.

For this exercise, work in pairs or small groups to explore two accounts of the

treaty-making process: the Indigenous oral account and the written diary.

**Watch the Heritage Minute and listen to Rosary’s story.**

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| Summarize the source: |

**Read the excerpts below from the Treaty 9 document, and the diary of treaty**

**commissioner George MacMartin.**

**Excerpt from Treaty 9 Document**

“And His Majesty the King hereby agrees with the said Indians that they shall have the right to pursue their usual vocations of hunting, trapping and fishing throughout the tract surrendered as heretofore described, subject to such regulations as may from time to time be made by the government of the country, acting under the authority of His Majesty, and saving and excepting such tracts as may be required or taken up from time to time for settlement, mining, lumbering, trading or other purposes.”

**Excerpt from the diary of George MacMartin**

July 25 [1905] “As promised them a feast was prepared and when all was in readiness at 7 p.m. every member of the Band served with currant bannocks, tea, pipes and tobacco, they announced that they had chosen — Wm [William] Whitehead as chief, Wm Coaster and Long Tom Ostesama as Councillors. Chief White-head then delivered an oration, in [which] he said,

pointing up and down the river that they were being cornered by not being allowed both banks of the River for miles to fish and hunt on but that they must accept what was offered from these

who had given them presents and provided a feast for them. When it was explained to them that they could hunt and fish as of old and they were not restricted as to territory, the

Reserve, merely being a home for them where in which no white man could interfere, or trespass upon, that the land was theirs for ever; they gladly accepted the situation, and said they

would settle the reserve question later on. The flag was then presented to the chief with the admonitions as usual. The feast over, about 9:30 p.m. the chief and his councillors

came to our quarters saying that they wanted both banks for 50 miles down river as a hunting reserve. Again it was put forcibly before them, that it was a home for them that was being

provided & not a hunting preserve and that they could hunt wherever they pleased. They signified their assent.”

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| Summarize the source: |

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| What evidence do these sources provide about the 1905 treaty-making process? |

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| Compare and contrast the perspectives offered by these stories. |