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**BLACKLINE MASTER 5-5**

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## Was the Chilcotin Conflict a War?

Depending on their point of view, some people called the events of 1864 in the Chilcotin a war, and others called it a massacre. What word you would use to describe the events, and how would you justify your choice?

### Step 1. What do you mean by “war”?

In a small group, brainstorm characteristics of war. How is a war different from a police action? from a protest? Share your list of characteristics with the rest of the class. Modify your list as necessary. Summarize the list of characteristics in a sentence or two to come up with your definition of war.

### Step 2. Investigate.

What was the background to the events of 1864?

Consider how the following features of colonial expansion played a role:

- disease
- gold rush
- differing world views
- colonial government policies

### Step 3. Summarize.

Summarize the events of the Chilcotin conflict. List the actions of the Tsilhqot'in chiefs and the colonial troops.

Do you think it is significant that the Governor himself joined in?

How did each side view the conflict?

There are books and on-line resources available for you to do further research into the events.

### Step 4. Support your decision.

Decide if you would call the conflict a war.

List the evidence that supports it being called a war.

List the evidence that does not support it being called a war.

If you decide it was not a war, what label would you give the conflict?

Prepare an oral report to present your decision to the class.

What is the most important factor in arriving at your decision?

Make sure you include examples of background information and events.

Mention one or two points that people who disagree might use to support their arguments. Provide reasons explaining why you don't agree with them.