



Indigenous Education Cultural Activities

Central Okanagan, School District No. 23

These presentations are from a local *First Nations perspective*. Some are seasonal and most are grade specific. All supplies are provided for designated activities. *(Please note: All presentations demonstrate "cultural and social awareness" as in the Career Education K-9 Curriculum. The italics reference the curriculum in different Areas of Learning.)*

Kindergarten, Grade 1

Gathering & Uses of Plants (*K-Science: First Peoples' uses of plants; features of local plants.*

Grade 1-Science: Local First Peoples' knowledge of the local landscape, plants.)

Focus is on the characteristics of the use and respect of Arrow Leaf Balsamroot and its significance to the Okanagan people

Traditional Storytelling – Stories of the Sky (*K/1 Science-Curricular Competencies-*

Recognize First Peoples stories as ways to share knowledge. Grade 1-Science: shared First Peoples knowledge of the sky.)

Traditional stories are shared about celestial objects. Students will then lace a constellation.

Traditional Games (*PE: proper technique for fundamental movement skills, including non-locomotor,*

locomotor, and manipulative skills K-Social Studies: personal & family history & traditions. Grade 1-Social Studies: diverse cultures within the local community.)

Teachers will be introduced to accuracy and intuition games used to hone hunting skills and beginning hand commands of the traditional stick game to use in their classroom. Follow up lessons available for teachers

Exploring Local Wildlife Animals (*K-Science: First Peoples' uses of animals; features of local animals.*

Grade 1-Social Studies: relationships between a community and its environment. Grade 1 Science: structural features of living things in the local environment.)

Students will get to view some examples of four local animals and their tracks. They will get to learn some animal names in the Okanagan Language.

Grade 2

Traditional Fishing (*Social Studies: how people's needs & wants are met in communities; diverse features of the environment; rights & responsibilities of individuals regionally & globally. Science: First Peoples knowledge of life cycles.)*

Presentation is to enhance teacher's lesson plans...of the importance of Kokanee and Sockeye to the Okanagan People, the salmon life cycle and traditional vs contemporary fishing techniques are shared.

Traditional Storytelling / (Captikw) (*Social Studies: how people's needs & wants are met in communities. Science: First Peoples use of their knowledge of life cycles.)*

Okanagan Legend – This is a student-participatory drama using 5 masks to demonstrate the Okanagan Legend of "How Food Was Given", emphasizing the relationship between people and the environment.

The tasting of Indian ice cream along with a question and answer period completes the presentation.

Traditional Beading (*Social Studies: diverse characteristics of communities & cultures in Canada & around the world, including at least one Canadian First Peoples community & culture.)*

Personal Pouches – Students will create a personal 'necklace' pouch. The hide tanning process is described along with the uses of pouches. The students decorate their pouches with traditional symbols.

Traditional Games (*Social Studies: diverse characteristics of communities & cultures in Canada, including at least one Canadian First Peoples community and culture. PE: proper technique for fundamental movement skills, including non-locomotor, locomotor, and manipulative skills.)* Students will be introduced to accuracy and intuition games.



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Grade 3

Traditional Dwellings (*Social Studies: cultural characteristics and ways of life of local First Peoples and global Indigenous peoples; interconnections of cultural and technological innovations of global and local indigenous peoples.*)

Using explanations and examples about the tipi, tule mat, kekuli, longhouse and lodges, students will create a small replica tipi as the activity, adding Aboriginal design symbols.

Traditional Storytelling / (Captikw) (*English LA: explore and appreciate aspects of First Peoples oral traditions. Social Studies: oral history, traditional stories, artifacts as evidence about First People cultures.*)
Sharing of traditional stories about local land formations.

Traditional Beading – Medicine Wheel Values (*Arts: traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts*)
Medicine Wheel Necklaces - The four colors of the Medicine Wheel are used for beading and patterning, along with a cultural talk about the characteristics of the Medicine Wheel.

Traditional Games (*Social Studies: Cultural characteristics and ways of life of local First Peoples. PE: proper technique for fundamental movement skills, including non-locomotor, locomotor, and manipulative skills.*)
Students will develop specific strengths by interacting with various traditional games. An open area is required.

Grade 4

Indigenous Plants (*Social Studies: the pursuit of valuable natural resources played a key role in changing the land, people and communities.*)

Students will explore local plant life and their traditional uses in either an outdoor ethno walk or an indoor presentation (outdoor walk is seasonal).

Traditional Storytelling (Captikw) (*English Language Arts: awareness of the oral tradition in First Peoples cultures. Science: the effects of the relative positions of the sun, moon, and Earth including local F P perspectives.*)

Students will make connections to stories through the understanding of Oral history and traditional stories in Aboriginal culture. Stories will revolve around traditional local stories about the sun and moon.

Traditional Beading (*Social Studies: Interactions between First Peoples and Europeans. Art: traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and arts-making processes*)

Students will learn about common objects traded between Okanagan First Peoples and early Fur Traders. Students make a key chain using different colours of beads which represent a traded item.

Traditional Drumming (*Social Studies: the history of the local First Peoples communities.*)
Students use rattles and hand drums and are taught the Okanagan Anthem.

Traditional Stick Games

Students will be introduced to accuracy and intuition games and the beginning hand commands of the traditional stick game.



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Grade 5

Traditional Fishing (*Social Studies: First Peoples land ownership and use. Science: First Peoples knowledge of sustainable practices.*)

The species, habitat, uses and respect regarding traditional fishing methods, accompanied with implement examples..

Residential School (*Social Studies: Canada's policies and treatment of minority peoples have negative and positive legacies; responses to discrimination in Canadian society.*)

Lesson 1.1 from the Grade 5 IRSR resource is taught. Please note only one Residential School Lesson is allotted per classroom, not counting follow-up activity. See below.

Residential School follow-up activity (Residential School Lesson 1.2)

Follow up activity to lesson 1.1. The students will have the opportunity to sew their own memory bags relating to the story of Shi-shi-etko as in Residential School Lesson 1.1.

Colonization - Blanket Exercise (*Social Studies: past discriminatory government policies and actions.*)

An interactive activity that visually represents the colonial effects of the Canadian Government on First Nations Peoples.

Ethno Walk (*Social Studies: First Peoples land ownership and use. Science: First Peoples concepts of interconnectedness in the environment.*)

Students will have an opportunity to discover indigenous plants and some of their uses. Field trip with weather permitting.

Levels of Indigenous Governments (*Social Studies: representation in Canada's system of gov't*)

To enhance teacher lesson plans a speaker will provide a follow up regarding the different levels of First Peoples government will be discussed – federal, provincial, and municipal. Curriculum available.

Traditional Storytelling (Captikw) (*English Language Arts: how story in First Peoples cultures connects people to land. Science: local types of earth materials.*)

The importance of Oral history and traditional stories in Aboriginal culture are explained as well as told. Sharing of traditional local stories about earth materials.

Traditional Drumming (*Social Studies: the history of the local First Peoples communities.*)

Students are given the opportunity to use rattles and hand drums to explore different Okanagan Songs. They are introduced to following protocols and demonstrating respect while using the drum.

Traditional Dancing (*Social Studies: Multiculturalism continue to shape Canadian society and identity.*)

In a gym, various types of regalia and dance steps, along with the importance of traditional dancing in demonstrated and discussed.

Traditional Games (*Social Studies: Multiculturalism continue to shape Canadian society and identity. PE: proper technique for fundamental movement skills, including non-locomotor, locomotor and manipulative skills.*)

In a gym or outside, various games are explained and played that are used to develop specific strengths, or the teacher can request the focus to be solely on Traditional Stick Games.