

National Aboriginal Awareness Week

2016 May 19-22

Aboriginal Awareness

This week of celebration is an opportunity for all Canadians, especially young people and educators, who have the opportunity to create a Shared Teachings/Learnings environment to learn more about Aboriginal cultural heritages of Canada.

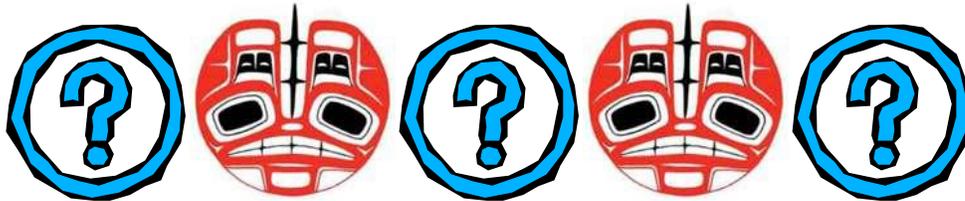
By sharing our knowledge and experience, there will be greater understanding and harmony among all Canadians.



In recognition of the many aboriginal cultures and experiential difference that exist among the BC and Canadian aboriginals, the Shared Teachings/Learnings suggested in this booklet are intended to highlight Aboriginal peoples, events, places, issues and realities that are statement of knowledge about Aboriginal peoples' cultures, values, beliefs, traditions, history and languages.

Source(s)

Shared Learning: Integrating BC Aboriginal Content K-10



Did you know?

Did you know that some of BC's towns or cities have names that come from aboriginal sources. Find out what the following names mean and from which language the words come from. Match the names with the description.

Chilliwack The name comes from an Okanagan word meaning "the always place", in the sense of a permanent dwelling place.

Coquitlam Is the name of the local tribe, ch.ihl-KWAY-uhk. This word is generally interpreted to mean "going back up".

Kamloops Is likely from the Salish tribal name which is translated as "small red salmon". The name refers to the sockeye salmon common to the area.

Suggestion: Make up your own matching work list or create a word search, etc.

Place names reveal Aboriginal peoples' contributions:

Place names are never just meaningless sounds. Rather, they embody stories about the places to which they are attached. They give us valuable insights in history and provide clues about the country's cultural and social development. A study of place names will always reveal the astounding diversity and depth of Aboriginal peoples' contributions to contemporary Canada, BC and our schools.

What Can You Find Out About These Aboriginal Personalities

Not a comprehensive list. Suggestion: Aboriginal Personality Profile, Chart by Origin, etc.

Politician	Artists	Activist	Writer	Other
John Amagolik Georges Erasmus Simon Baker Phil Fontaine Ethel Blondin-Andrew Dan Goodleaf Abel Bosum Elijah Harper Matthew Coon Come Ovide Mercredi Frank Calder Others...	Karoo Ashevak Kenojuak Ashevak Lucy Tasseor Tutsweetok David Ruben Piqtoukum Hugh Mckenzie Norval Morrisseau Joe David Stan Bevan Ken McNeil Freda Diesing Art Thompson Roy Thomas Francis Esquega Bil Reid Robert Davidson Dorothy Grant	Giindajin Haawasti Guujaaw Mary Two-Axe Earley Buffy Sainte-Marie	Eden Robinson Jeanette Armstrong E. Pauline Johnson Kateri Damm Basil H. Johnston Nora Dauenhauer Mitiarjuk Nappaaluk Drew Hayden Taylor Tomson Highway Thomas King Carla Robinson	Raven August Brenda Kanayuk Tom Jackson Rose Boyko Wade Cachagee Douglas Cardinal Roberta Jamieson Cornelia Weiman John Campbell Harry Lavelle Verna Kirkness Alfred Scow

Shared Learnings Quiz

What do you know about Aboriginal peoples?

1. How many Aboriginal students are there in BC?
10,000 20,000 30,000 40,000
2. What percentage of BC Aboriginal students graduate from secondary school?
11% 31% 51% 71%
3. Define "Aboriginal".
4. When is National Aboriginal Day?
June 21 May 22 November 11 February 18
5. The Indian Act was passed in **1851 1876 1901 1926?**
6. The number "four" is very important to many Aboriginal peoples. What are some ways that "four" is reflected in life?
7. What famous Canadian was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in *Dances with Wolves*?
8. List five foods that were introduced to the world by Aboriginal peoples.
9. How many Aboriginal language groups are there in BC?
10. The last residential school closed in **1986 1960 1958 1940?**

Bonus

When were Aboriginal peoples permitted to vote in federal elections?

Find answers to these questions in the resource guide *Shared Learnings, Integrating Aboriginal Content K–10* (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/shared.pdf)

Answers

1. (p31), 2. (p31), 3. (p191), 4. (June 21), 5. (p15), 6. (p 24), 7. (p39), 8. (p87), 9. (p166), 10. (p167-168)

British Columbia Treaty Process Awareness Test

Question 1	How many stages are there in the British Columbia Treaty Process?
Question 2	How many First Nations (as accepted by the British Columbia Treaty Commission) are active in the British Columbia Treaty Process?
Question 3	How many treaties currently exist in British Columbia?
Question 4	True or False? The Nisga'a treaty table was the first established under the British Columbia Treaty Process.
Question 5	Name the two First Nation litigants in the Delgamuukw case.
Question 6	True or False? The First Nation litigants in the Delgamuukw "won" in the Supreme Court decision on their appeal handed down in December 1997?
Question 7	In what year did blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal title occur in British Columbia?
Question 8	What is the significance to First Nations of OIC (Order in Council) 1036?
Question 9	With what does section 91 (24) of the Constitution Act deal?
Question 10	Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution recognizes and affirms what?
Answers	
Question 1	<p>Six. 1) Statement of Intent, 2) Readiness, 3) Negotiation of a Framework Agreement, 4) Negotiation of an Agreement in Principle, 5) Negotiation to Finalize a Treaty, 6) Implementation of a Treaty.</p> <p>To get a detailed explanation of the B.C. Treaty Process, take a look at the booklet Understanding the B.C. Treaty Process.</p>
Question 2	Fifty-one. For a list of all the First Nations involved, see www.bctf.ca/WorkArea
Question 3	Fifteen. Governor James Douglas entered into fourteen treaties with First Nations in the lower Vancouver Island in the 1850s. The fifteenth is Treaty 8 in northeast B.C., which covers First Nations whose territories stretch across the provincial border from Alberta. No B.C. government was prepared to make treaties again until the 1990s. The Nisga'a Treaty, once ratified, will be the sixteenth and is the first negotiated in modern times.
Question 4	<p>False. The Nisga'a negotiations began twenty years ago, after a court judgment established that Aboriginal rights still existed. The B.C. Treaty Process was established more recently.</p> <p>The entire Nisga'a treaty, along with support documents can be found at: http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/</p>
Question 5	Gitxsan and Wet'suwet'en

Question 6	False, although it depends on what is meant by won. The Supreme Court overturned the lower court decisions that ruled against the land claims. However, it did so on technical grounds, and ordered a new trial. The decision did, though, define more clearly the rights of First Nations in land claims, and in that sense was a win for all First Nations, not just those involved in the court case.
Question 7	A trick question. Title was never extinguished. For nearly 150 years, British Columbia governments claimed that Aboriginal title had been extinguished when British sovereignty was declared in 1846. However, the Delgamuukw decision makes it clear that those claims were never extinguished.
Question 8	An Order passed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council which allows the Provincial government to confiscate ("resume") up to 5% of Reserve land without compensation. This provision has been used frequently to run roads, power lines and the like across Reserves, with no say by the First Nations on whose Reserve the service is running.
Question 9	It gives exclusive authority to the Canadian Federal Government for "Indians, and Lands reserved for the Indians."
Question 10	<p>Section 35 affirms inherent Aboriginal rights. Supreme Court decisions, such as Delgamuukw, have further defined the precise nature of these rights.</p> <p>CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982--PART II: Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada</p> <p><i>Recognition of existing aboriginal and treaty rights</i> 35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.</p> <p><i>Definition of "aboriginal peoples of Canada"</i> (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada.</p> <p><i>Land claims agreements</i> (3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.</p>

(This awareness test was developed by Brian Domney, Negotiator in the Treaty Negotiations Division of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.)

Field Studies

Museum of Anthropology at UBC – 604-822-3825

The most iconic object in the museum is probably the yellow cedar sculpture *The Raven* and the *First Men* by Bill Reid, which is depicted on the Canadian twenty-dollar bill.

Other notable Bill Reid works include his *Bear* and *Wasco* (Sea Wolf) sculptures, some of his gold jewellery, and prototype of the Haida dugout canoe he carved for Expo 86.

The museum contains several large Musqueam artifacts from the late 19th century and early 20th century, as well as many contemporary works commissioned from Musqueam artists such as Susan Point, Joe Becker and Robyn and Debra Sparrow.

The museum's Great Hall contains many fragments of totem poles from Haida and other First Nations villages along British Columbia's coast.

Grouse Mountain – 604-980-9311 Email: info@grousemountain.com

Híwus First Nations Cultural Program – The Híwus feasthouse is the meeting place for students of all ages and backgrounds, to enjoy a full day of vivid legends, songs, dances and crafts. Step into an authentic Pacific Northwest longhouse and let Kwel-a-a-nexw, our Squamish First Nations elder take you back in time to discover the traditional way of life of our First Nations people.

Our guides will greet your group at the Valley Station and escort you to the mountain top. Enroute to the Híwus feasthouse, students will enjoy a guided nature walk through sub-alpine forest. In winter, this walk is done on snowshoes.

Once inside the Híwus feasthouse, samples of native cuisine will be served for a truly unique and authentic cultural experience.

Fort Langley – 604-513-4777 Email: fort.langley@pc.gc.ca

Fort Langley is the exact location where, a century and a half ago, a huge fur trade organization called the Hudson's Bay Company established a small post to trade with the First Nations of the West Coast. The enterprise grew, evolved and influenced history, leading to the creation of the colony of British Columbia.

Vancouver International Airport – 604 -207-7077

Bill Reid's masterpiece *The Spirit of Haida Gwaii* is a bronze canoe six metres long. Passengers include the Raven, the Eagle, the Bear and his human wife, the Mouse Woman and the Dogfish Woman. In the middle stands the Chief holding in his hand a smaller sculpture; a talking stick that depicts the story of creation in Haida terms.

Burnaby Art Gallery – 604-297-4422 Email: gallery@burnaby.ca

B.A.G. in a Box Cultural Portraits – A new way to bring art into your classroom. B.A.G. in a Box programs feature artwork by local artists, resource materials and activities for Grades K–7, all based on centralized themes.

There are portraits with traditional and contemporary elements, by artists of First Nations, Middle Eastern, Asian and other backgrounds. Investigate how an artist's expression reflects his/ her identity and culture and the role visual arts has in reflecting or challenging traditions. Learn about expressive portraiture, pastel, drawing and painting techniques. This box includes: Lyle Wilson and Amir Ali Alibhai.

Cultural Portraits is available for a 12-day loan throughout the school year.

Totem Pole Park – 604-873-7000

The Totem Poles of Totem Park – Situated just off the seawall beside the Brockton Oval cricket pitch are eight totem poles. Each has a story that breathes life into it. Each is connected to the land on which it stands in more than just a physical sense.

In 2001, an interpretive centre was established by constructing a separate structure housing working areas, lots of signage, a gift shop for related items and a refreshment outlet. The totem poles themselves were treated to an upgrade in the landscaping around them. More signage was put in place to deal with the stories related to each of them.

Hatzic Rock – 604-820-9725

Hatzic Rock is a rare 'sacred transformer site' at the Xa:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre in Mission. The boulder has great significance for the First Nations people, as it is the spot where three chiefs were turned to stone for disobeying the Creator. Next to the Hatzic Rock there is an archaeological dig of a house, discovered in 1990, believed to be the oldest dwelling yet found in British Columbia at 6000 years. Carbon datings from the site date back as far as 9000 years ago.

Aboriginal Music

The following are Aboriginal artists:

- Susan Aglukark, *Blood Red Earth* (suggested songs *Circle of Old* and *Citizens of the World*)
- George Leach (no CD cover, included in Susan Aglukark CD)
- Intellifunk (no CD cover, included in *Sacred Spirit* CD)
- Robbie Robertson
- Sacred Spirit (suggested song *Wishes of Prosperity and Happiness*)
- Daniel May and Dan Gibson, *Native Spirit*

Share the above music with your students during National Aboriginal Awareness Week.

Artists

Just Where I'm At is **George Leach** at his best. An accomplished actor and visual artist, George Leach's first choice for self-expression is music. This singer/songwriter performs his original compositions with his own distinctive and unpredictable style, adding a unique Aboriginal flavor to high-energy classic rock and blues sounds. The gritty electric blues and original rock ballads of this Sta'at'imx from Lillooet, British Columbia, are truly spellbinding. He pours his heart and soul into every song he performs, losing himself in the emotions of the lyrics and melodies.

He won the Best Male Artist and Best Rock Album awards at the 2000 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and a 2010 nominee for the best video, *You Got It*. He has worked with respected artists Robbie Robertson, the Powder Blues, Susan Aglukark and Bo Diddley.

The third song, *Semiah* is a song that George composed after his daughter was born.

A three-time Juno award-winning singer/songwriter and Order of Canada recipient **Susan Aglukark** is one of Canada's most unique artists and leading voice in Canadian music. She blends the Inuktitut and English languages with contemporary pop music arrangements to tell the stories of her people, the Inuit of Arctic Canada. The emotional depth and honesty of her lyrics; her pure, clear voice and themes of hope, spirit and encouragement have captivated and inspired listeners from all works of life.

Aglukark already has five albums to her credit. She has performed for numerous dignitaries, including Queen Elizabeth, Prime Ministers Jean Chretien and Brian Mulroney, and Nelson Mandela. Aglukark is also well-known as a workshop facilitator and mentor in the Aboriginal community.

Born in Toronto, at an early age, **Robbie Robertson** began learning guitar from relatives (his mother is of Mohawk descent) during his summer visits to the Six Nations Reservation.

Robertson's career spans many decades as a Canadian singer/songwriter, guitarist and producer. He is best known as the guitarist and primary songwriter for The Band. He was ranked 59th in *Rolling Stone* magazine's list of 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time. The Band has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Canadian Music Hall of Fame. As a songwriter Robertson is composed such classics as *The Weight*, *The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down*, *Up On Cripple Creek*, *Broken Arrow* and *Somewhere Down the Crazy River*. He has worked with world-renowned musicians such as Bob Dylan, Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton, Neil Diamond and Ringo Starr. He has also produced numerous movies scores that include *Raging Bull*, *The King of Comedy*, *Casino*, *Departed* and *Gangs of New York*.

In 2011, Robertson was inducted into the Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame and given the Royal Order of Canada.

Sister Says formerly of **Intellifunk**, is sister and brother Gillian and Robert Thomson. As a duo and full band they switch effortlessly from classical composition to jazz, neo-soul, electronic and hip hop. Gillian provides lush vocals with funky, smooth bass lines and arranging from Rob.

The duo performs at venues such as The Yale, The Biltmore, Canvas Lounge, and The Railway Club in Vancouver. In May 2008, the two enjoyed a mini tour in Beijing to help kick off the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games with the Four Host Nations. During the 2010 Olympics Games, Sister Says performed at the Aboriginal Pavilion and the Roundhouse at The Talking Stick Festival. In June they also toured Toronto, Boston and New York performing at their producer Donald Quan's boutique studio Q-Music in Toronto for its annual party.

In 2010, the band was nominated for two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for *The Only Way* in the categories Best Female Vocalist and Best Group or Duo. In 2011, the band performed at the Canadian Music Fest in Toronto, toured other festivals in BC, Ontario, Quebec and the UK as well as recorded their second album.

Sacred Spirit is a musical project by German musician Claus Zundel, who is also known for another successful project B-Tribe. In keeping with the Native American theme, Zundel adopted the pseudonym 'The Fearsome Brave', and on his many other projects he is simply credited as 'The Brave'. The music is of electronic, new age, world, ambient, house, jazz and blues genres. Sacred Spirit (in some regions known as Sacred Spirits) is Zundel's most successful project, with total worldwide album sales estimated to be over 10 million copies. For each Sacred Spirit album sold, a donation is made to the Native American Rights Fund, the non-profit American Indian organization devoting all its time to restoring the legal rights of the Native American people.

Daniel May and Dan Gibson

Native American flutes merge with the natural sounds of the desert to reveal the spirit of a gentle, ancient world. Instrumentation of the *Native Spirit* CD also includes: guitar, cello, drums, percussion and chant/voices.

Books/CD



***Treaty Talks in British Columbia* — Christopher McKee**

This book traces the origins and development of treaty negotiations in the province. Through an examination of Native concerns, the author analyzes conflicting points of view and suggests alternatives for achieving consensus.



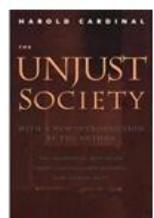
The Great Peace—The Gathering of Good Minds

Explore the history, culture and spirituality of the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations Iroquois) on this unique CD-ROM. Learn how the Great Law of Peace guides and protects the Haudenosaunee. Travel on an educational interactive multimedia journey and see Native history as it has never been seen before. Produced by Native people, about Iroquois people, for all people.



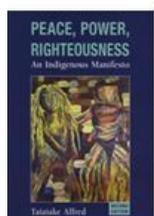
Aboriginal Peoples—Building for the Future

Student activities for Canadian Challenges are an easy-to-use set of optional exercises based on significant themes in Canadian history. Each activity is directly related to the content of the chapter to reinforce student understanding. For Grade 9 Canadian Social Studies teachers in all provinces.



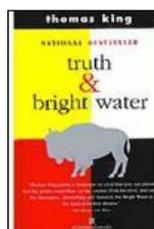
***The Unjust Society* — Harold Cardinal**

A Cree leader named, Harold Cardinal, gives a cutting renunciation to Jean Chretien's White Paper, in his book. Originally published in 1969. This book continues to be one of the most vital books ever published in North America regarding First Nations people struggle for their identity. Radical changes in policy are exemplified in that describes the Aboriginal Rights, Social Programs and Economic Development.



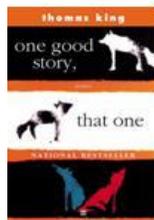
***Peace, Power, Righteousness* — Taiaiake Alfred**

This visionary manifesto, first published in 1999, has significantly improved our understanding of First Nations' issues. Taiaiake Alfred calls for the indigenous peoples of North America to move beyond their 500-year history of pain, loss, and colonization, and move forward to the reality of self-determination. His account of the history and future of the indigenous peoples of North America is at once a bold and forceful critique of Indigenous leaders and politics, and a sensitive reflection on the traumas of colonization that shape our existence.



***Truth & Bright Water* — Thomas King**

The tale of two young cousins and one long summer. Tecumseh and Lum live in Truth, a small American town, and Bright Water, the reserve across the border and over the river. Family is the only reason most of the people stay in the towns, and yet old secrets and new mysteries keep pulling the more nomadic residents back to the fold.



***One Good Story, That One* — Thomas King**

A fabulous collection of short fiction that focuses on contemporary First Peoples and their interactions with a sometimes hostile, often misguided, and always different white culture and society.

Websites

[Indigenous and Northern Development Canada](#)

[Aboriginal Music](#)

[BC Ministry of Education](#)

[BCTF – Aboriginal Education](#)

[BC Hydro – Aboriginal Relations](#)

[Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards](#)

[Canadian Aboriginal Books for Schools](#)

[Canadian Heritage](#)

[First Nations Education Steering Committee](#)

[Lakehead University – Aboriginal Initiatives](#)

[Library and Archives Canada](#)

[New Federation House](#)

[Parks Canada](#)

[Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)

[Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation \(Stanley Park Landmarks\)](#)

[Vancouver International Airport \(Self-Guided Tours\)](#)

[Veteran Affairs Canada](#)