

10. Using the Internet to Learn About Aboriginal Peoples

(Information Technology 8-10; also appropriate for Social Studies 8-10, English Language Arts 8-10, Visual Arts 8 and 9, Career & Personal Planning 8-10, and Physical Education 8-10)

SHARED LEARNING

- Many kinds of information about Aboriginal peoples have been published on video, CD-ROM and the Internet.

PRESCRIBED LEARNING OUTCOME

It is expected that students will:

- demonstrate an ability to use a variety of software to access, capture, and store information from the Internet

PURPOSE

- to use skills in accessing, capturing, and storing information from the Internet
- to provide opportunities for students to gain information about Aboriginal cultures and peoples.

SUGGESTED TIME FRAME

- three to four hours

APPROACH

1. Discuss with students the importance of learning about Aboriginal peoples. Reasons might include:
 - the information is relevant to every Canadian
 - the history of Aboriginal people is a part of the history of BC and Canada
 - social change is necessary
 - many issues in the news today involve Aboriginal peoples.
2. Brainstorm for a list of what students know about Aboriginal peoples. Referring to the list, point out possible gaps in knowledge and information.
3. Discuss the ways of obtaining information about Aboriginal peoples and cultures (e.g., library, encyclopedia, news stories, Internet).
4. Hand out the following assignment and allow students time to work individually or in pairs.
5. As a class examine the original list of what students know. Discuss and change, as necessary, based on the new information students have gained. Emphasize the benefit of the Internet for finding information about any topic.

ASSESSMENT

- Look for evidence of increased student ability to search for and use specific information on the Internet.
- Evaluate completeness of the information about Aboriginal people included on the student worksheets.

USING THE INTERNET TO LEARN ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

The Internet contains a great deal of information about the wide diversity of Aboriginal cultures, values, beliefs, traditions, and languages. In this assignment you are asked to use the Internet to research specific aspects of this topic.

Part A: Traditional Stories or Legends

1. Visit various web sites that have traditional stories or legends, keeping a record of the addresses of all of the sites you visit.
2. Choose one story or legend that you like in particular (you may wish to save it to a disk).
3. After reading the story or legend several times, answer the following questions in full sentences:
 - From what Nation is this story?
 - What kind of animals or spirit figures are part of the story?
 - Is there a theme to this story? What kind of theme?
 - What do you think is the purpose of this story?
 - Have we read similar stories? Which ones, and how are they similar?
 - What is it that you like about this story?

Part B: Artwork

1. Explore various sites that display Aboriginal artwork. This can include drawing, paintings, carving, weaving, traditional dress, etc. Keep a record of the addresses of all of the sites you visit.
2. Choose three pieces of artwork that you like.
3. For each piece, answer the following questions:
 - What is it that you like about this piece of artwork?
 - What Nation is the artist from?
 - How does the artwork make you feel?
 - Is there a story that goes with the piece?
 - What do you think the piece is trying to say?

Part C: Questions and Answers

1. Visit the following specific sites listed and answer the questions using information found at the site.
Go to: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
www.inac.gc.ca
2. After you are at the site, go to the "frequently asked questions" page.
Who are the Inuit?
3. On the same page, find out how many Registered Indians there are in Canada.
4. On the same page, find out how you register or apply for status?
5. On the same page, find out if Registered Indians have special immigration benefits or rights in the U.S.
Go to: Aboriginal Youth Net
www.ayn.ca
6. List three job opportunities that are posted on this site.
7. Visit the news centre. Following one of the links to an Aboriginal newspaper, read and write out one current news event from the Aboriginal community.
Go to: Native Hockey Players page
www.nativehockey.com
8. List three current Aboriginal NHL players.
Make sure you include the teams they play for.