



ORANGE SHIRT DAY AND BEYOND

2023- 24 SUPPORTS FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

This lesson plan supports Education for Reconciliation through inclusion of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit ways of knowing, historical perspectives, traditional games, dance, and song. The rich and vibrant cultures of Indigenous people across Alberta and Canada are embraced. The lesson activates a learning and thoughtful reflection about Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples.

Métis Dance and Song

Introduction

The Métis are a unique and proud collective group of community in Canada. Métis people have always been a social and festive people guided by song, dance, and story. In many shared stories, the Métis oral history explains the many traditional dances, songs, and music that were created. This lesson offers a deepening of the Métis culture and the rich, strong relationships they bring as a collective culture.

Essential Questions

Who are the Métis People?

Culture, traditions, language, and specifically storytelling are important aspects of the Métis. Why is storytelling so important to the Métis?

Activity

Sharing-Talking Circle: In the sharing circle, share ways the unique and vibrant culture of the Métis people is celebrated through storytelling, song, and dance.

Share with students a jigging tutorial from YouTube about the Red River dance and fiddle music. Have students practice the steps as a class in a slow/walking motion; then have students dance with the fiddle music.

Reconciliation Connection: Learning the history of arts and culture preserves and promotes traditional Métis ways of life.



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What is a unique attribute of Métis in Alberta?

Métis are known as the *forgotten people*. Why



Alberta Regional Consortia

Key Words: Traditions, storytelling, oral history, fiddle, jigging music, history

Themes: Métis language, forgotten people, road allowance, scrip, resistance, homeland

Extensions: Reflect upon the Métis through music and dance. How are they a unique and vibrant culture in contemporary times? What are some of the celebrations that are important to your own family? How do the Métis people continue to celebrate their own cultural traditions? The Métis are guided by oral history and storytelling, dance, and song. How has their worldview shaped who they are?

Resources

www.Rupertsland.org

Métis Nation of Alberta

<https://albertametis.com/governance/mna-regions/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKIEt_ImSV8

How to Literally Tear Up the Floor Dancing the Red River Jig

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gKRVTub3ng>