



# ORANGE SHIRT DAY AND BEYOND

2023- 24 SUPPORTS FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

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

## Indian Relay Races

### Introduction

Indian Relay Racing is a high-adrenaline event that requires a powerful combination of teamwork, precision, and horsemanship. It is a traditional extreme sport that has been played for over 500 years. Traditionally, our ancestors were great horsemen and rode to celebrate a successful hunt, a victory over a warring tribe, and to pass on their knowledge to family. Today, the sport reflects cultural pride, traditional knowledge, contemporary ways of knowing, and team building.

### Essential Questions

Why is it important to learn about this extreme sport?

How do teams decide who is a participant of the relay race?

What are some ways Indigenous youth can benefit from this traditional game?

How can an Indian relay race connect us to reconciliation?



### Activity

**Sharing-Talking Circle:** Students share in a circle their understandings of traditions, oral history, and sports within their own cultures. Embracing the concept that each culture has commonalities and unique sports within their own contexts, students share an event they participated in that required a unique skill set.



**Reconciliation Connection:** Providing students the opportunity to learn about traditional sports, horsemanship, and the relationships they have with Indigenous communities across Alberta deepens their knowledge of other cultures.

**Key Words:** historical perspectives, relationships, courage, bravery, cultural pride

**Themes:** historical perspectives, intergenerational teachings, culture, language, sportsmanship, oral history

**Extensions:** Interview an Elder/Knowledge Keeper from a local community. Prepare five questions to share. Have students research a traditional language and translate the questions, including artwork. Discuss how language is integral to who we are.

## Resources

Relay Races

<https://www.calgarystampede.com/stampede/shows/evening/relay-races>

Indian Relay Racing growing in popularity at home and on the global stage

<https://calgarycitizen.com/p/calgary-indian-relay-photo-exhibit>

A Glimpse at Indian Horse Relay

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2039108675878>

Strathmore Cultural Show & Indian Relay Races

<https://youtu.be/S8EHK2JfusA>

PBS Videos

<https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/search/?q=indian%20relay%20race>