



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

PROGRAM QUESTION

What is Reconciliation?

TIMELINE

60-120 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the link between language and culture, and their influence on worldview
- To reflect on the effects of the Indian Act, residential schools, the 60s scoop and other events on Indigenous languages and cultures
- To take an active part in the revitalization and preservation of Indigenous languages

CONTENT

According to the 2016 census, there are over 70 Indigenous languages in use across Canada. Currently Cree, Inuktituk, and Ojibway have the highest number of speakers. Despite this diversity, overall only 1:6 Indigenous persons (or 17%) can hold a conversation in an Indigenous language. Language is critical to sharing traditional knowledge, family and community history, and cultural worldview. Sadly, years of colonial systems and structures, most notably the imposition of Residential Schools, severed these connections, meaning that for many generations, knowledge and understanding about their communities and their cultural identities was lost for Indigenous peoples.

This unit will explore the connection between language, culture and identity, and will highlight some of the people and organizations working to reintroduce and preserve language and culture to their own communities, and to use them to educate Canadians more broadly.



ACTIVITY		
ACTIVITY	Stories, Songs and Sayings	
TIMELINE	60-120 minutes	
MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconciliation Conversations - Language and Culture Google Slide • Video recording device, such as a cell phone, laptop or Ipad • <i>Optional: pen and paper for notetaking and brainstorming</i> 	
1 Reflect Explore the Google slide as a group. Afterwards, ask students to reflect on the prompts below. They may write down some of their ideas. You may also decide to discuss these questions in small groups or as a large group.	2 Share Ask students to think of a story, a song, or a saying/expression in their native language that reflects their culture and to share it with the others. Is there a moral tied to it? Is there a historical aspect to it? How is it similar to others in the group? How does it differ?	3 Speak! Take part in this week's challenge! Details in the "Challenge" section below. Refer to the "Resources" section below for information and inspiration.
Prompts: How are your own language and culture linked? Are there words in your language that don't exist in other languages? Is the sentence structure different? How might your language impact how you view the world? Is your language a part of your identity? In what way? When a language disappears, what do we lose? How can we ensure the survival of Indigenous languages? How is learning an Indigenous language an act of reconciliation?		



RESOURCES / NOTES

Aanii: <https://www.aanii.org/>

CBC Podcast - Unreserved - First Words: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/topic/Tag/unreservedfirstwords>

Cree Cultural Centre : <http://creeculturalinstitute.ca>

Deh Cho Friendship Centre: <https://dehchofc.com>

Edmonton Public Library: <https://www.epl.ca/blogs/post/2019-is-the-international-year-of-indigenous-languages/>

First Peoples Cultural Council - Teaching Tools for Language Nests:
http://www.fpcc.ca/language/Resources/Online_Companion_Toolkit/Teaching_Tools_for_Language_Nests.aspx

First Voices (focus on languages spoken within British Columbia): <https://www.firstvoices.com/>

First Voices for Kids: <https://www.firstvoices.com/kids>

Inuktit Tusaalanga (Learn Inuit Languages): <https://tusaalanga.ca/welcome-bienvenue>

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg – Learning Algonquin Through Flash : <http://kzadmin.com/Learningalgonquin.aspx#>

Language Museum - Indigenous Language Apps & Websites: <http://www.languagemuseum.ca/indigenous-language-apps-websites>

Learn Alberta - Walking Together - Language and Culture:
http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/culture_and_language/

Learn Alberta - Walking Together - Oral Tradition: http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/oral_tradition/

Learn Michif: <http://www.learnmichif.com/>

Louis Riel Institute - Speaking Michif: <http://www.louisrielinstitute.com/speaking-michif-language-lessons.php>

Métis Museum - Métis Songs:
<http://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/03146.MetisSongsVisitingWasTheMetisWay.pdf>

Métis Museum - Michif Tools: http://www.metismuseum.ca/michif_tools.php

New Journeys - Resources for learning Inuktitut: <https://newjourneys.ca/en/articles/resources-for-learning-inuktitut>

Nunavut Tourism - Learn Inuktitut: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUSwXbz7CtE>

Our home on native land: <https://native-land.ca/>



Our Languages: <https://www.noslangues-ourlangues.gc.ca/en/ressources-resources/autochtones-aboriginals/ressources-resources-eng>

Original Voices: <https://originalvoices.ca/>

Pirurvik : <https://www.pirurvik.ca>

Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre : <https://sicc.sk.ca>

Say IT First : <https://sayitfirst.ca>

Ukâlalautta Inuttitut (Let's Speak Inuttitut!): <https://soundcloud.com/user-623280927>

Yukon Native Language Centre : <http://ynlc.ca/index.html>

CHALLENGE

Hello & Thank You

Step 1) Record yourself saying a new expression (e.g. Hello, my name is, thank you) in an Indigenous language. Please refer to the resources above for inspiration.

For non-Indigenous young people, challenge yourself to learn an expression in the language of your traditional territory! If you are unsure of the traditional territory or the languages spoken there, please visit <https://native-land.ca/>

For Indigenous young people with knowledge of their traditional language, seek out knowledge from an Elder, family member, or the resources above, to learn a new expression in your language. Alternatively, use this opportunity to challenge yourself to learn an expression in another Indigenous language!

Step 2) If you are comfortable, upload your video clip to:
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/9d8umH6L5aukDTsETRvf>

Please state your name, the language you have chosen, and the expression you have learned in the name of your video clip (ex. Jane Doe - Anishinaabemowin - Hello)

A montage will be made of all video clips!