

LAUWELNEW, the Saanich Peoples' Story of the Great Flood

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Saanich School District #63

This lesson is designed for Grade 6 language arts / social studies. It is based on local Aboriginal authored book, LAUWELNEW, written by Earl Claxton and John Elliott. ISBN: 1-896119-00-X

Shared Learnings:

Language Arts:

- Storytelling is an important activity in Aboriginal cultures
- Many values and beliefs are inherent and expressed through traditional Aboriginal stories

Social Studies:

- Aboriginal people have distinct views and relationships with the environment
- Elders have an important role in traditional Aboriginal societies
- Many Aboriginal place names refer to natural resources
- Aboriginal people have lifestyles, customs, and traditions that are unique to each culture.

Prescribed Learning Outcomes:

Language Arts

It is expected that students will:

- use their knowledge of context and word elements to pronounce and make sense of unfamiliar words and specialized vocabulary

- locate and interpret details to answer specific questions or complete tasks
- develop personal response to materials and support their responses with reasons, examples and details
- compare their own opinions with information presented

Social Studies

It is expected that students will:

- research information using print, non-print, and electronic sources
 - locate and describe major geographic features and selected union states of the world
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Purpose:

- To provide an opportunity for students to learn about some components of the Saanich Peoples' cultures including the traditional story of the origins of the Saanich people
 - To provide an opportunity for students to learn some words of the local Saanich Peoples' SENCOTEN language
 - To provide an opportunity for students to learn about some of the geographic locations on the Saanich Peninsula that are important to the Saanich People
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Timeframe:

Part I: Working as a Class - About one hour

Part II: Small Group Research - Suggested 3-4 hours of class time

Approach:

LAUWELNEW: The Saanich Peoples' Story of the Great Flood

Part I: Working as a Class

1. Ask students to identify Aboriginal place names on the Saanich Peninsula. (Some examples are Tsartlip, Tsawout, Pauquachin, Tseycum, Lauwelnew). Make a chart as a class, so that learned SENCOTEN words from the story can be added to the chart.
 2. Have a discussion with students about how they think the place names were given to each area. See attachment for meanings of place names.
 3. Introduce the story, LANUWELNEW. Ask students to listen for the following information:
 - Why is Lauwelnew (Mt. Newton) known as a place of refuge?
 - What was the importance of the canoe in this story?
 - What type of clothing did Saanich people wear?
 - What was the purpose of passing down this traditional story from generation to generation?
 4. Read the story to the class. Choose the most effective method for telling the story:
 - Read the story from the book, or
 - Make coloured copies of the pictures and put the words on the back of the pictures. Show only the pictures to the class and tell the story from reading the back of the pictures, or
 - Use coloured overheads of the story pictures and tell the story from memory.
 5. Add new words to the class chart.
 6. Discuss the questions that were introduced before the story was read.
 7. Start a display board using the class chart of words, with the title of the display board being "Saanich People".
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Part II: Small Group Research

1. Organize students into groups for research tasks. Research topics could include:
 - The four Saanich bands: Tsartlip, Tsawaout, Tseycum, and Pauquachin
 - Canoes, paddles, and the Coast Salish People
 - Canoe pulling and the Saanich People today
 - The Cedar tree and products made from it which are used by Coast Salish people
 - The Arbutus tree
 - The traditional food of the Saanich People (e.g. salmon, berries, duck)

2. Provide students with necessary class time to research their topic and prepare a presentation. Each group:
 - creates a visual display of their research
 - creates a worksheet for the rest of the class to complete during the presentation
 - presents the findings to the class
 - reflects on their research and presentation
 3. Add each group's research project to the Saanich Peoples display board.
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Possible Resources for small group research:

*(*This is only a sample of resources students could use).*

- <http://www.tsawout.ca/home.htm>
- <http://www.bcfm.org/profile/tsawout.htm>
- <http://www.bcfm.org/profile/tsartlip.htm>
- <http://www.bcfm.org/profile/Pauquachin.htm>
- <http://www.bcfm.org/profile/tseycum.htm>
- <http://www.sisb.bc.ca/> (Saanich Indian School Board)
- <http://www.angelfire.com/hi4/Geronimo/Geronimo.html> (canoe pulling)
- <http://www.canoemuseum.net/./heritage/salish.asp>
- <http://rbc1.rbcm.gov.bc.ca/notes/cedar.html>
- <http://www.coastbotanicalgarden.org/articles/arbutus.htm>

Books:

- *Saltwater People* as told by Dave Elliot Sr. (Saanich book)
- *We are the Saanich People* Text by Janeth Poth (Saanich book)
- *The Saanich Year* By Earl Claxton and John Elliott (Saanich book)
- *Plants of Coastal British Columbia*, Jim Pojar and Andy Mackinnon
- *Cedar: The Tree of Life to the Northwest Coast Indians* by Hilary Stewart

To order Saanich Books, Contact:

Saanich Indian School Board

7449 West Saanich Road

P.O. Box 368

Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1R7

Phone : (250)-652-2313 or 652-4212 / Fax: (250)-652-6929

Assessment

- Use a checklist to evaluate student participation in class discussions, small group research and class presentation.
- Small Group Research:
 - Evaluate individual student notes and summaries of research information found.
 - Evaluate the display created by the small group.
 - Evaluate the clarity and completeness of the information provided in the group presentation

Possible Extension Ideas

- Compare the Saanich Peoples flood story to other flood stories from around the world.
- Create a play based on the story and present it to the class.
- Create a storyboard on the flood story.
- Learn more about the SENCOTEN language and place names. (SENCOTEN Alphabet book)
- Make a product out of cedar used by the Saanich people at one time (e.g. a model of a paddle)