

Upcoming Events

January 4 - National Ribbon Skirt Day

Storytelling Resources

11 Things You Should Know About Indigenous Oral Traditions
(for information, context and protocols)

Camossung Story

From *Songhees*, pg 66.

This is a four paragraph story about the story of Camossung and the current Gorge waterway. Students of all levels could hear, discuss, memorize and retell it, learning to acknowledge where it comes from.

The Legend of Camossung



Storytelling Kits

The following kits are available from the IED library to support oral storytelling in your classroom:



Fireplace Kit A plug-in fire to gather around and share stories.

Story Bag Kits Bags with loose parts for storytelling.

Story Play Kits Animal finger puppets, plush bighouse and canoe

Please email IEDlibrary@sd61.bc.ca to request any of these kits.

Oral Stories Book List

Raven Tales and **Wesakechak Tales** book sets. Raven Tales are also available on DVDs.



Oral Storytelling

Oral storytelling plays an important role in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. For thousand of years, oral storytelling has been a way for Indigenous people to share information about history, land, families, ecological knowledge and creation stories. Stories teach lessons, beliefs and act as a form of entertainment. Even songs can be a form of telling a story. Storytelling happens at all times of the year, but more so during the colder and darker winter months.

When listening to oral stories there are things to consider such as uninterrupted listening and saving questions till the end. Expect long pauses through out the stories.

Stories are meant to be told over and over again, as each time the story is heard, meaning is deepened, learning is expanded and new connections are made.

[How the Chipmunk Got It's Stripes](#)

[How the Beaver Got It's Flat Tail](#)

[Ojibwe Creation Story](#)

When using these stories, listen to them without watching the video. The stories may seem elementary but they can be used at all levels, K- 12. Have students listen to the stories and then try to retell them. Listen to them again to see what was missed. Oral storytelling is an art that requires practice and skill.

Wild Woman of the Woods

The Wild Woman of the Woods is a tale well known by different Indigenous Nations across BC, teaching lessons to children about wandering too far from home and about teasing others. Wild Woman goes by many names including Tsonoqua, Tsonokwa, Dzunik'wa, Zuniqwa, Th'owxiya. She is a supernatural being.

The familiar story of Hansel and Gretel can be compared to this tale.

Here are links to oral stories of Wild Woman of the Woods:

[Basket Woman Story](#)

[Dzunukwa: Wild Woman of the Woods \(Kwakwaka'wakw\)](#)

[DZUNUKWA | The Sasquatch Woman who Eats Children](#)

Please refer to page 28 of the "Songhees" Book. . "Many nations have stories of the Wild Woman or Man of the Woods."



Winter Solstice

The winter solstice is an event that has been observed for a millenia by our Indigenous ancestors. It is an important time for those who honour and acknowledge the patterns of our natural world. The natural world is a traditional way of teaching about nature and its universal laws. In understanding the interconnectedness of all things, Indigenous people recognize the cosmos - the sun, the moon, the stars, and other planets. The winter solstice, is a time to look inward and care for our spiritual selves, our bodies and mind, and our families.



Arts Resources

Salish Weave Collection

This collection includes 27 prints from various Salish artist. You can preview prints and learn more about this project at salishweave.com. Please note that this resource is in high demand, and has a two week loan period.

Weaving Resources

Cedar Weaving Book List

Cedar Weaving Kit

Wool and Weaving Book List

Wool and Weaving Kit

The Cowichan Sweater, Our Knitted

Legacy documentary currently streaming on CBC Gem.

Music and Drumming

We have six songs that our school district has permission to sing. You can access the songs through the IED website listed under the Teacher Resources tab, then under the Elementary Resources - Music and Art. See page [here](#).

Gordy Bear is the district Drum Program Facilitator. If you have any questions about the drum program email gbear@sd61.bc.ca

Alana Johnson is the district Indigenous Music Teacher Consultant who can support teachers and answer questions you have. ajohnson@sd61.bc.ca

Creative Arts

With cooler temperature and less daylight, winter is an ideal time for pursuing creative endeavours. These can take many forms, including beading, carving, weaving, dancing, singing, and drumming.

At the IED library, we have many resources to help students learn more about the history, stories and people involved in Indigenous arts, including wool, weaving, carving, fine art, dancing and drumming.

Beading

Indigenous peoples across North America used beading as a form of art, decoration, and trade for thousands of years before European contact. Depending on the area, materials such as shells, bones, pearls, stones and quills were used. Since contact, glass, ceramic, and plastic beads have also been and are still used in the creation of many items including regalia, jewelry, and clothing. Beading styles and materials vary across North America - this is a rich art form that brings with it many teachings and stories.

[CBC Kids: Do You Know What Beading Is? Beaded Timeline Activity from SD 71](#)

Community Event Highlight:

Raven Spirit Dance - Confluence

UVIC Jamie Cassels Centre
Saturday February 17, 2024

Confluence is a contemporary dance that incorporates Indigenous women's perspectives and worldviews. Tickets are by donation.

National Ribbon Skirt Day

National Ribbon Skirt day was first recognized on January 4, 2023, after Isabella Kulak, an Anishinaabe girl from Cote First Nation in Saskatchewan, was shamed for wearing a ribbon skirt to a formal event at her school.

See link to video with more info below.

The Ribbon Skirt Evolution

Ribbon skirts are worn as a sign of womanhood, strength, and connection to Mother Earth. They evolved in the early 1800s, as traditional clothing from animal hides transitioned to materials like wool and cotton resulting from European trade. As a result, ribbon work was incorporated to decorate these skirts. The materials and ribbons often tell a story about the wearer.

Ribbon Skirt Resources

[Canada's 1st National Ribbon Skirt Day.](#)

What is a Ribbon Skirt?

The ribbon skirt represents a symbol of womanhood, strength, and Indigenous pride. Ribbon skirts are handmade with fabric and various ribbon colours. Many ribbon skirts depict a story or personal expression and tradition of the individual wearing it.



Recommended Listening

Podcasts are a great way to learn something new. Here are a few that we recommend (please be sure to listen before you use in class):

Warrior Kids Podcast: Elementary to Middle (Various topics, host Pam Palmeter)

This Place: Middle to Secondary (goes with the graphic novel of the same name)

Unreserved with Roseanna Deerchild Secondary (Various topics) ***Click on Podcast link under title banner - lots of great info on main page as well!

The Secret Life of Canada: Secondary ("Untold" stories about the history of Canada, many with Indigenous focus) Plus 5 Podcast Lesson Plans (resources)

The Storykeepers Secondary (authors Waubgeshig Rice and Jennifer David host discussions on Indigenous literature)

Big House Season

Winter Ceremony season is here, and this work largely takes place in local Longhouses or Bighouses. Students may sometimes be required to be absent from school to participate.

As these ceremonies are sacred, please refrain from asking students for details about the work they are doing.

If you have any questions about how to support students as they take on these important cultural and community responsibilities, please contact an IED teacher (see below).

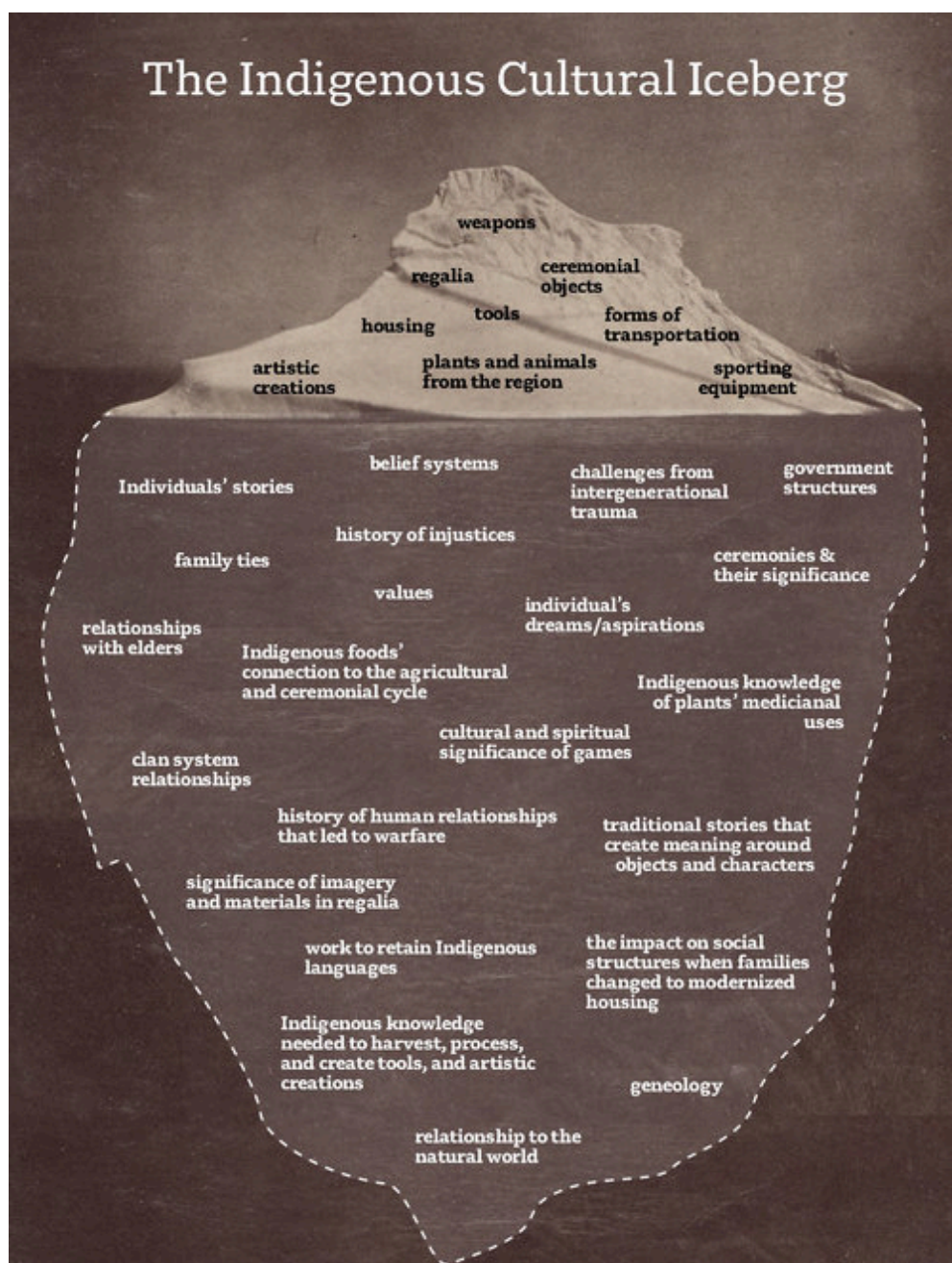
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Created for the American Museum of Natural History

Cultural Appropriation

Most people in North America recognize certain aspects of what it means to "be Indigenous" to these lands. As illustrated above, most of these aspects are the "tip of the iceberg", while the belief systems, values, languages, stories, and cultural knowledge that support them are the "unseen" aspects below the water. Cultural appropriation occurs when people copy or create (often for profit) the outward aspects of Indigeneity without having the lived experience of being Indigenous and the generational teachings that come through community, family, and ties to the land. This is why we have moved away from classroom activities like making representations of totem poles and button blankets, which need to come with many of the "below the water" teachings and knowledge.

Loreina Rising: The Indigenous Cultural Iceberg Explained (Youtube video)

In Our Own Words - While this resource says it's for K-3, we highly recommend it for all grades and classrooms. Lots of useful information about respectful terminology, protocols, and more.

Appropriation (?) of the Month: First Nation Totem Poles - This article by R. R. Gray discusses the appropriation of totem poles from a Northwest Coast perspective.