

International Day of the World's Indigenous People August 9

Global Themes

- Images and Perception

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about International Day of the World's Indigenous People and the specific right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to practice their own culture, language and religion. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right (CRC Article 30).

Background Information for Teachers

United Nations Cyberschoolbus

cyberschoolbus.un.org/indigenous/index.asp

Aboriginal Canada Portal

aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/en-frames/ao04607.html

Grades

4 – 8

Materials

Book entitled *How People Live* by Dena Freeman

Medicine Wheel worksheet (printable copy attached)

Activity One

- Introduce CRC Article 30; the right for children to practice their own culture, language and religion. Ask the students to brainstorm what culture means. Discuss why culture is important. Explain that this lesson is a chance to celebrate this right.
- Read aloud from the book *How People Live* by Dena Freeman turning to pages 48-51 to highlight some of Canada's indigenous people.
- Research the medicine wheel and record information on the Medicine Wheel worksheet to share with the class.

Discussion

What are some of the common bonds that link all the cultures together?

How is culture interconnected?

The book, *How People Live*, represents very traditional views of the people represented. How could you expand your definition of aboriginal culture to be more representative?

Extension

Research how aboriginal peoples are combining traditions with new learnings. A profile of a Cowachin knitter can be found at ambassadors.net/archives/issue27/profile2.htm.

Additional Resources

civilization.ca/cmcc/exhibitions/aborig/fp/fpz1inte.shtml

ifg.org/programs/indig/IFGmap.pdf

globalissues.org/article/693/rights-of-indigenous-people

Medicine Wheel Worksheet

