



Curriculum Links
The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 1:
Crooked Music: John Arcand, the Master of
the Métis Fiddle

Suggested Grade Levels:

Grades 4 – 12 Social Studies
All Grades Music/Dance

Curriculum Themes:

- Dance
- History of Manitoba
- History of the Métis
- History of Saskatchewan
- Music

Summary of Episode:

John Arcand has spent his lifetime promoting and preserving the traditions of Métis Fiddle and Dance and old time fiddling. In 1998, he staged the first John Arcand Fiddle Festival and after 8 years this annual celebration has become one of the major fiddle events in Western Canada.

Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| • Andy Desjarlais | • Fiddle | • Preserve |
| • Back bow | • 400 year old music | • Red River Settlement |
| • Bow Style | • Give back | • Research |
| • Building block | • Heritage | • Role Models |
| • Chop | • Inspire | • Saskatchewan |
| • Concerts | • Jigging | • Time |
| • Crooked meter | • John Arcand | • Tradition |
| • Dance | • Métis | • Unpredictable |
| • Design and craft fiddles | • Music | • Upbeat rhythm |
| • Don Messer Show | • Music of Europe | • Workshops |
| • Drum of First Nation | • National John Arcand Fiddle Festival | • Wrist |
| • Evolution of music | • Passionate | |

Suggested Activities:

- Study the Métis. This may include such topics as values and contributions to government, Louis Riel, Métis Revolutions, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Red River Cart, Sash, Flag, Red River Settlement, and Michif.
- Discuss what the term Métis means historically. What does Métis mean today? Is it a term restricted to Ojibwa and French? Other people have a much more diverse background but are still of mixed origin.
- Listen to Métis music.
- Read books related to the Métis (see Additional Resources)
- Invite people in to jig or to teach students how to jig.
- Invite a fiddler in or a fiddle group.
- Look up communities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan that have a high population of Métis heritage.

Additional Resources (online):

- Mentis National Country
<http://www.metisnation.ca>
- Métis Resource Centre
<http://www.metisresourcecentre.mb.ca>
- Pemmican Publishing
<http://www.pemmican.mb.ca>
- St. Laurent teaching guide
http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/st_laurent/teachers_guide.pdf
- Sunshine Records
<http://worldwidesunshine.com>
- War Pony Records
<http://www.warponyrecords.com>

Additional Resources (text):

- *The Golden Métis*
by Flynn Ell © 2004 Pemmican Publications
- *Li minoush*
written by Bonnie Murray © from Pemmican Publications
- *Louis Son of the Prairies*
by Noelle Palued-Pelletier © 1990 Pemmican Publication
- *The Métis Princess*
by Annette Saint-Pierre © 2004 Pemmican Publications
- *Prairie Rose*
by Fred Smith © 1993 Pemmican Publications
- *The Tobanz*
by Edgar Danny Desjarlais © Pemmican Publications
- *Women of the First Nations Power, Wisdom and Strength*
Edited by Christine Miller and Patricia Chuchryk © 1996 University of
Manitoba Press

Related Episodes:

- The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 13
Empty Nets
- The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 15
Solomon Carriere- Last of the Voyageurs

Activities

Who are the Métis?

Draw the Métis flag and describe what the meaning of it is:

Pick one Métis person you would like to research. Print their name and major contributions below:

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?