



Curriculum Links
The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 2:
Not Just Beads and Moccasins

Suggested Grade Levels:

Grades 6 – 12 Social Studies
Middle/Senior Art and Math

Curriculum Themes:

- Art
- Canadian history
- Identity
- Indian Act
- Math-patterns
- Politics

Summary of Episode:

The idea of Aboriginal art is relatively new. Outside the art community, the dominant perception might be that contemporary Aboriginal art is about images of wolves and bears done up in the traditional way of beads and moccasins.

Not Just Beads & Moccasins is a profile of three contemporary Aboriginal artists who adapt traditional art forms into something more contemporary. Greg Hill, Jeff Thomas and Nadia Myre share a common focus in their work of symbols of Canadian identity. Through performance, photography and visual art they defy these symbols and the power, control and authority they represent.

The result is some of the hottest stuff around – art that's not just beads and moccasins.

Vocabulary:

- Awareness
- Beaded Indian Act
- Birch Bark
- Bureaucracy
- Canoe
- Conditions of Life
- Control
- Crafts
- Discovery
- Emblem of Canada
- February 15th, 1965
- First Nations
- Healing
- Historical Figures
- Historical Milestone
- Identity
- Jeff Thomas
- Kanata Day march
- Kanata Flag
- Land
- Lester B. Pearson
- Little hurts
- Love
- Maple Leaf
- Materials
- Métis
- Montreal
- Nadia Myre
- National Identity
- National Monument
- Perspective
- Photograph
- Public Art
- Railroad
- Red and White
- Remembered
- Removal
- Risky
- Samuel D. Champlain
- Scars
- Sherma Letski
- Statistics Canada
- Status Card
- Subservient
- Symbol
- Territory
- Translate
- Urban Aboriginal

Suggested Activities:

- Who are important political figures in Canadian History?
- Which are Aboriginal and which are not?
- Who discovered Kanata?
- Learn to sing O Canada in Ojibwa, Cree, Inuktitut, Michif etc.
- What are traditional honour songs?
- What is a symbol or a flag for various Aboriginal people in Canada?
- Make a symbol that represents Aboriginal presence in Kanata
- What are some contributions Aboriginal People have given that shapes our identity as Canadians?
- What does it mean to be Canadian?

Suggested Activities (continued):

- What are traditional forms of social structures? Look at clan systems, seven teachings, tree of peace, values, wampum belt etc .
- Look at the League of Six Nations. There are aspects of their “democracy” which was used by Ben Franklin in the formation of U.S. Government ideals. Why were the Six Nations not recognized for this?
- Study some National Monuments. Who decides what is a National monument? Why? How many are dedicated to Aboriginal figures?

Additional Resources (online):

- Greg Hill homepage
<http://homepage.mac.com/gahill/Menu14.html>
- Indian and Northern affairs and the Indian Act
http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/qc/csi/ind_e.html
- Iroquois
<http://www.kahonwes.com/iroquois/document1.html>
- Jeff Thomas a Look at Indianess
<http://www.bruntmag.com/issue2/thomas.html>
- Nadia Myre site
<http://www.nadiamyre.com/>

Additional Resources (text):

- *Hidden in Plain Sight Contributions of Aboriginal Peoples to Canadian Identity and Culture*
edited by David R. Newhouse, Cora J. Voyageur, Dan Beavon © 2005
University of Toronto
- *Stolen Continents Conquest and Resistance in the Americas*
by Ronald Wright © 1992, 2003 Penguin Canada

Canada

Draw the Canadian flag and or emblem. Write the importance of Canada to yourself. What does it mean to be a Canadian Citizen? How long have you lived here? What freedoms do you enjoy etc?



Learn about the word “Kanata”. Where does it come from and what does it mean? Why is it important to remember the contributions of the Aboriginal peoples of this country?

