



Curriculum Links
The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 11:
Endangered Words

Suggested Grade Levels:

All Grades

Curriculum Themes:

- Aboriginal Education teachers
- Administration and language teachers
- Culture
- Identity
- Language
- Residential School

Summary of Episode:

Language is what connects Aboriginal people to the spirit of the land, to their ancestral teachings, and to the essence of their culture. Yet all across Canada, aboriginal languages are close to the brink of extinction. Of the original fifty-three languages spoken across this country, only three are considered secure, having more than 20,000 speakers. The rest are at risk of vanishing within a generation.

Vocabulary:

- Aboriginal Head Start
- Angela Wilson
- Blackfoot Language Programs
- Brandon, Manitoba
- Buffalo
- Children
- Come Together
- Commitment
- Community
- Connection
- Creator
- Cultural teachings
- Dakota
- Doris Pratt
- Education
- Elders
- English
- Fluent
- 50 Languages in Canada
- Future
- Government
- Home Lessons
- Identity
- Immersion Program
- Knowledge
- Land
- Language
- Language workshop
- Laws
- Leadership
- Life
- Marvin Robe
- 1920
- Past
- Plants
- Present
- Pride
- Punishment
- Report
- Residential School
- Resources
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Return
- Ron Hall
- Ruth Norton
- Sheila McKay
- Sioux
- Solve Problems
- Spirit
- Strap
- Suffer
- Support
- Teach
- 10 Extinct Languages
- 3 Languages Expected to Survive
- Understand

Suggested Activities:

- How many different groups of Aboriginal people do you think there are in Canada? How many dialects and languages do you think there are?
- Study the groups in your province. What languages do they speak? In Manitoba we have Ojibwa, Oji-Cree, Cree, Dakota, Dene, Michif and Inuktitut.
- Pretend an alien group has landed here and they speak an unknown language. You must learn that language and are not allowed to speak your own language. How would that make you feel? What types of things do you have to learn about this alien group? How would that change your thoughts, your lifestyle and ultimately who you are?
- Go to Indian and Northern Affairs and listen to the different Aboriginal languages. http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks/5000_e.html
- Make a plan to help teach language in your school or community.

Suggested Activities (Continued):

- Who is in charge, what language, can you get grants, who would you teach and what would you begin with?
- Look into computer programs that teach languages.
- Contact a teacher at Niji Makwa or Children of the Earth School who teaches languages and get help.
- Contact people in your community who know the language and get help.

Additional Resources (online):

- Languages
http://www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal/e/language_e.asp
- Manitoba Languages
<http://www.ablang.com/contact.html>
- Ojibwa language resources
<http://www.ikidowinan.com/9.html>