



Curriculum Links
The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 20:
Haida Gwaii - Island of the People

Suggested Grade Levels:

Grades 4 – 12	Social Studies
Grades 4 – 12	Science (environment and trees)
All Grades	Art

Curriculum Themes:

- Art and museums
- Environment
- History
- Identity
- Loggers
- Rights and Indian Act
- Trees and Preservation of them
- West Coast

Summary of Episode:

The most isolated landmass in Canada is a unique area off the northwest coast of BC, consisting of over 200 separate islands. Known geographically as the Queen Charlottes, this area is home to the people of the Haida Nation. The Haida are known among the many West Coast nations as gifted artists, carpenters and boat builders. Having suffered the loss of 95% of their population after European contact, they are also a testament to survival.

Today a wave of new artists are rediscovering the supernatural beauty behind the ancient stories, using them for inspiration to create amazing works of art. Painters, weavers, and totem pole carvers carry the day as the Haida express themselves creatively and politically. Now their single biggest battle is to raise awareness of the serious threat posed by extensive forestry on their island home. Artists like Jim Hart, Jaalen Edenshaw, Marcel Rust, Sherri Dick, and Mick Morrison share age-old inspiration and a duty to protect Haida Gwaii, Island of The People. By reclaiming their traditional ways, the spirit and strength of the Haida is plainly evident in their stories, songs, and powerful works of art.

Vocabulary:

- Ancestors
- Art
- Artist
- Bill McLennan
- Bill Reid
- Blockade
- Bones
- Carver
- Carving
- Cedar
- Cedar Box
- Christianity
- Collections
- Communicate
- Complex
- Contact
- Culture
- Cut all
- Family
- Forestry
- Future
- Growth time
- Haida
- High Grading
- History
- Home
- Industry
- Jaalen
- Edenshaw
- Jeopardy
- Jim Hart
- Journalist
- Legends
- Life
- Logging
- Long houses
- Mentorship
- Message
- Mick Morrison
- Monitor
- Museums
- 95% population loss
- North west
- B.C.
- Outlawed
- Politics
- Pot latch
- Preserve
- Private collectors
- Queen Charlotte
- Re build
- Reclaimed
- Red Cedar
- Reflect
- Repatriation
- Represent
- Responsibility
- Reynold Russ
- Rights
- Sacred objects
- Sherri Dick
- Small pox
- Songs
- Spruce
- Status
- Stories
- Study
- Survival
- 10,000 years
- 200 Islands
- 2005
- Underground
- <600 Haida
- Wealth
- Weaver
- World recognition

Suggested Activities:

- Learn about the importance of the animals as symbols in button blankets. Make your own button blankets out of red and black felt and white buttons.
- Learn about the West Coast peoples. This may include language, customs, legends, social structure, potlatches, songs, traditional government and urban reserves etc.
- Read poems and speeches from Chief Dan George and learn about him.
- Read legends related to the West Coast peoples. Write your own legend.
- Learn about trees and why they are so important. First Nations have many connections to the land, and the tree holds many teachings. Ask an elder from your area to provide teachings related to the tree.

Suggested Activities (Continued):

- The Iroquois use the tree as a symbol of peace. Learn about the Great tree of Peace and write your own peace treaties.
- What will happen if we lose too many trees? Look at the issues related to global warming. Trees provide oxygen and as the Carbon Monoxide levels raise, we need more trees to counteract this. If we cut more trees and do not replace them, what may happen?
- Learn about the Indian act and how it outlawed ceremonies. Why did they do this? Do you think it is fair? What do you think would happen if the churches were banned and not allowed today?
- Learn about the artists mentioned in the show and write up about them. How do they inspire others?
- Make art related to trees, peace, oxygen, life, etc. How do you interpret these themes? Read the Elders are Watching and look at art and message.
- What does reclamation mean? Why should museums have greater rights than the people these items came from? Why should they not? What should be done with the items that were taken?

Additional Resources (online):

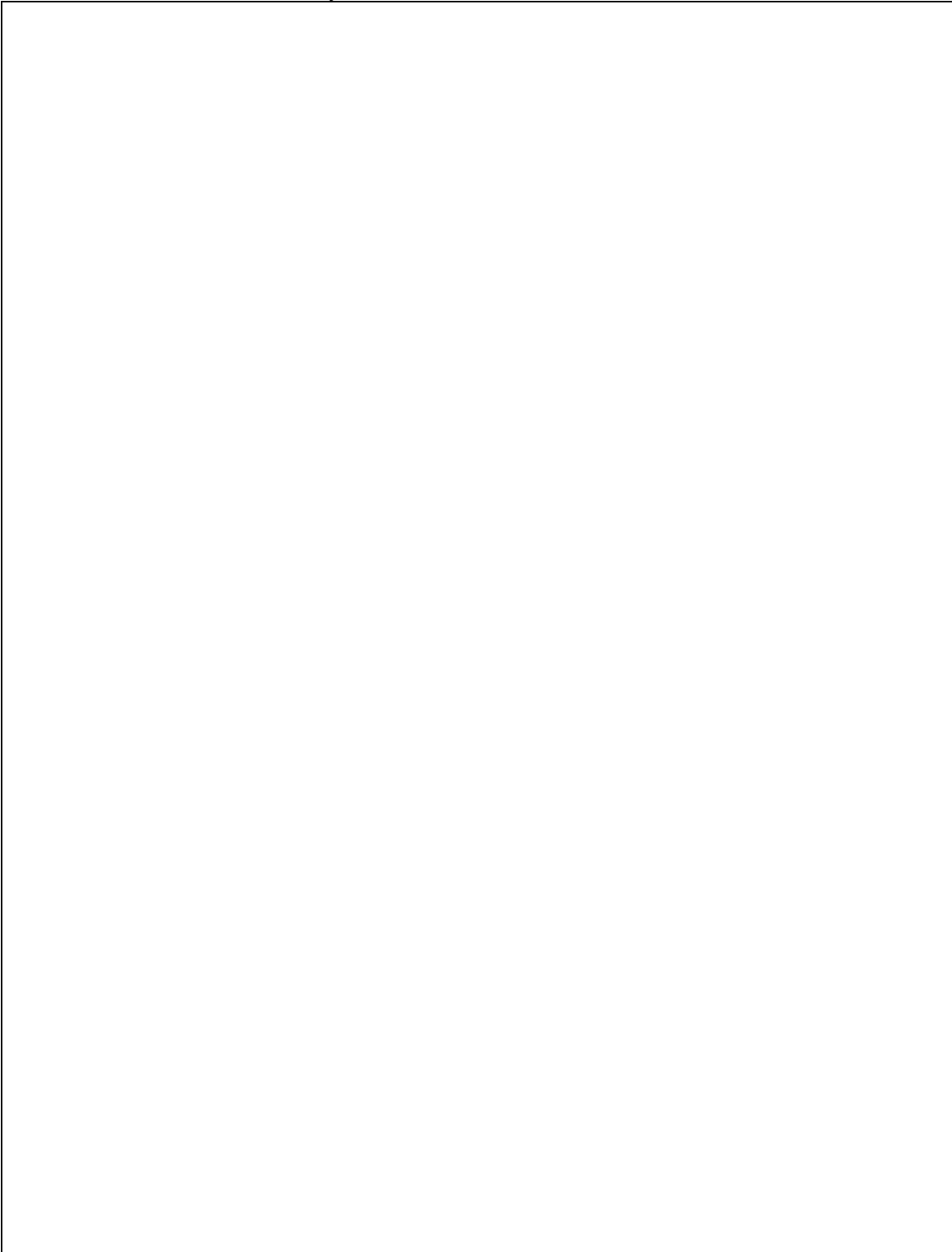
- Bill Reid
<http://www.civilization.ca/aborig/reid/reid01e.html>
<http://www.civilization.ca/aborig/reid/reid02e.html>
http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Billreidpole/english/background/ji_mhart.html
- Haida
<http://www.civilization.ca/aborig/haida/haindex.html>
<http://www.civilization.ca/aborig/haida/haaindex.html>
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/settlement/kids/021013-2061-e.html>
<http://www.schworak.com/haida/#>
- Jim Hart
<http://www.civilization.ca/aborig/haida/haaat07e.html>
- Jaalen Edenshaw
http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/ma07/feature_haida.asp

Additional Resources (text):

- Frog Girl
by Paul Owen Lewis © 1997 Tricycle Press
- The Elders are Watching
by David Bouchard © 2003 Raincoast books
- The Loons Necklace
by William Toye © 1997 Oxford University Press
- The Man who Becomes an Eagle
by John Ernico © 1984 Pacific Education Press
- Nations of the Northwest Coast
by Bobbie Kalman © 2004 Crabtree Pub.
- Raven Steals the Light
by Bill Reid © 1996 Douglas and McIntyre
- Storm Boy
by Paul Owen Lewis © 2001 Whitecap Books
- Totem Poles An Illustrated Guide
by Marjorie M. Halpin © UBC Press 1981

Trees

Draw a tree and write what you know about trees.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a tree and write their knowledge about trees.

Invite someone in to talk about the cedar trees and totem poles. What does the tree symbolize. Invite speakers from other nations (Aboriginal or non-aboriginal) and hear what they have to teach about trees. What have you learned? How has your perspective grown?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower two-thirds of the page. It is intended for the user to write their reflections or notes based on the text above.