



Classroom Units



Introduction to the Classroom Units

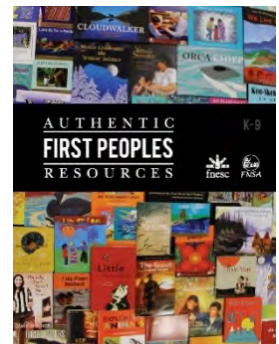


There are eight unit plans in this teacher resource, each designed to illustrate how authentic texts and local community resources can be used in classroom practice. These units can be used to help students achieve K-3 curricular competencies in the following areas:

	Grade	English Language Arts	Social Studies	Science	Mathematics	Arts Education	Physical & Health Education
Unit 1: All About Me	K-1	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Unit 2: Gifts from the Earth	K-1	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Unit 3: Stories of the Seasons	K-1	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Unit 4: Stories from the Sky	1	✓		✓		✓	
Unit 5: Our Animal Neighbours	2-3	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Unit 6: The Power of Stories	2-3	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Unit 7: Making Our Ancestors Proud	2-3	✓	✓			✓	✓
Unit 8: The Spirit of Celebration	3	✓	✓			✓	✓

Details about BC’s curriculum requirements can be found at curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum.

Each unit includes a focus on one or more of the texts identified in the FNEsc resource guide, *Authentic First Peoples Resources K-9*. Consult this guide – available online at fnesc.ca/authenticresources – for detailed annotations of each text, including description, key features, reading level, and ordering information. All of the authentic texts listed in the units are books unless otherwise noted.



The emphasis in each unit is on establishing a First Peoples context for learning. The units vary widely in scope and approach, designed to reflect a wide range in teaching styles. You are encouraged to select, adapt, modify, organize, and expand on the units to meet the needs of your students, to

respond to local requirements, and to incorporate additional relevant learning resources as applicable.

Core Competencies

Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need in order to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Along with literacy and numeracy foundations, they are central to British Columbia's K-12 curriculum and assessment system and directly support students in their growth as educated people. The Core Competencies areas are:

- Communication
- Thinking
- Personal and Social

Within each lesson, students will be able to explore a variety of profiles associated with each competency. Facets highlighted are embedded into the curriculum connections and lessons. Core competency are not assessed but rather reflected on to help the student understand what they can do to deepen the learning. This involves "I can ..." statements in addition to "Next time I will"

Further information about Core Competencies can be found at curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies.

Local Contexts

Wherever possible, you are encouraged to use resources representing your local area. It is important for all students in British Columbia to have an understanding of the culture(s) of the First Peoples in the area in which they live.

To represent local contexts, consider both available print resources, as well as oral resources from Elders, knowledge-keepers, and other guest speakers. Consult your district's Indigenous contact for assistance in identifying appropriate local resources. (An up-to-date list of district Indigenous contacts can be found at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/AB.do.)

When adapting texts and procedures for local relevance, ensure that you explain any variations and diversity within and across First Peoples cultures. For example, if one guest speaker teaches something that differs from something a printed resource or another guest taught at another time, it doesn't mean one is necessarily "wrong." As one teacher put it: "The Great Spirit gave us all the gifts that we have, and that's why each group saw it differently. That's why we have different beliefs, practices, clans, crests, and Nations."

For more information, see *What's the most appropriate way to include local community resources?* on page 19.

Shared Learnings

To help teachers bring authentic First Peoples knowledge into the classroom in a way that is accurate, and that reflects Indigenous concepts of teaching and learning, the BC Ministry of Education published *Shared Learnings: Integrating BC Aboriginal Content K-10*. You are encouraged to reflect on these shared learnings statements for various K-3 areas of learning as you teach about First Peoples in your classroom.

Please note: the following statements are organized into curricular areas that have been reorganized since the publishing of the *Shared Learnings* document. In addition, “Aboriginal” is used here because it is the term used in the original document.

Dance

- Aboriginal dance is performed in many Aboriginal communities.
- There are many kinds of Aboriginal dance.
- Dance is performed for specific purposes in Aboriginal cultures.

Drama

- Drama is an important aspect of Aboriginal tradition.
- Storytelling is an important form of Aboriginal drama.
- Traditional and contemporary Aboriginal dramas are performed within many Aboriginal communities.
- Traditional and contemporary Aboriginal drama is based on specific themes.

English Language Arts

- Aboriginal cultures pass knowledge from generation to generation through an oral tradition.
- Storytelling is an important activity in Aboriginal cultures.
- Participation in Aboriginal storytelling and other group activities requires effective and responsible listening behaviours.
- Aboriginal peoples create stories, poems, plays, and legends based on specific themes.
- Many Aboriginal stories, poems, plays, and legends have been written down and published by Aboriginal authors.

Health and Career Education

- The family is an important social structure in Aboriginal cultures.
- Elders have an important role in the Aboriginal community.
- Knowledge and practical skills are learned by Aboriginal young people from older Aboriginal family and/or community members.
- Listening skills and patience are highly valued in many Aboriginal cultures.
- The Aboriginal concept of sharing has a specific importance and meaning.

Mathematics

- Patterns are important in Aboriginal technology, architecture, and artwork.
- Aboriginal peoples used specific estimating and measuring techniques in daily life.
- Specific exchange items in traditional Aboriginal cultures had specific values.

Music

- Traditional Aboriginal music is performed in many communities.
- There are many styles of Aboriginal music.
- Traditional Aboriginal music is created and performed for specific purposes in many Aboriginal cultures.

Physical Education

- There are many traditional Aboriginal games and sports.
- Games and sports have specific values in Aboriginal cultures.
- Traditional Aboriginal dance is based on specific movement elements.

Science

- The Aboriginal concept of respect for the environment has a specific importance and meaning.
- Traditional Aboriginal cultures used natural resources for transportation, shelter, and food gathering.
- Traditional Aboriginal activities and lifestyles changed with the seasons.

Social Studies

- Aboriginal peoples are unique and diverse.
- Elders have an important role in traditional Aboriginal societies.
- The family is an important social structure in Aboriginal societies.
- The Aboriginal concept of respect has specific meaning and value.
- The Aboriginal concept of sharing has specific meaning and value.
- Aboriginal peoples developed distinct foods, medicines, and clothing.
- Traditional Aboriginal tools are used in many Aboriginal communities.
- Aboriginal peoples developed many technologies used today.
- Traditional Aboriginal activities and lifestyles changed with the seasons.
- Aboriginal communities have distinct forms of local government.

Visual Arts

- There are many distinct types of Aboriginal art.
- Aboriginal artists and their work can be found in local communities.
- Art has specific purposes in Aboriginal cultures.
- Aboriginal art is based on traditional Aboriginal themes.
- Ownership of art or images has a unique meaning in Aboriginal cultures.

The full text of the *Shared Learnings* resource is available in schools, as well as online at www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/pdfs/shared.pdf. In addition to these shared learning statements, the resource contains activity suggestions by grade and curriculum area, as well as sample lesson plans – including lessons on listening, storytelling, and Indigenous teaching and learning.