

SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE 3

First Voices



11255 Okanagan Centre Rd. W.
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BIG IDEA: INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IS PASSED DOWN THROUGH ORAL HISTORY, TRADITIONS, AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY.

COMPETENCY: EXPLAIN WHY PEOPLE'S BELIEFS, VALUES, WORLDVIEWS, EXPERIENCES, AND ROLES GIVE THEM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON PEOPLE, PLACES, ISSUES OR EVENTS.

CONTENT: ORAL HISTORY, TRADITIONAL STORIES, AND ARTIFACTS AS EVIDENCE ABOUT PAST FIRST PEOPLES CULTURE.

ACTIVITIES TO CREATE INQUIRY:

1. STUDENTS CAN LEARN ABOUT AND LISTEN TO *N'SYILXCEN*, THE TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE OF THE SYILX PEOPLE ON THE *FIRST VOICES* WEBSITE.
2. STUDENTS CAN DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE PRESERVATION AND HOW *N'SYILXCEN* HAS CHANGED OVER TIME DUE TO COLONIZATION.

WHAT WILL WE KNOW: A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF *N'SYILXCEN* AND A GREATER APPRECIATION FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE AND THEIR CULTURAL IMPORTANCE IN CANADA.

FURTHER INQUIRY:
FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS:
1. SNCEWIPS MUSEUM



We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the Lake Country Museum is situated, where this lesson was developed, is on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.

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Social Studies Grade 3: First Voices

Learning Experience
Students can explore the Syilx language of <i>n'syilxcen</i> and participate in a discussion about the importance of Indigenous languages in Canada.

Objective	Students will deepen their understanding of <i>n'syilxcen</i> through the <i>First Voices</i> website. Discussion about language preservation will highlight the importance of Indigenous languages as part of Canada's cultural past, present, and future.
Historical Reading	For background information and language inquiries, contact the Sncewips Museum in West Kelowna. https://www.sncewips.com/language
Activity	<p>First Voices</p> <p>The Syilx language, <i>n'syilxcen</i>, is one of over fifty Indigenous languages still spoken in Canada today. Many of these have been carefully recorded and a written alphabet developed. <i>N'syilxcen</i> is now taught as a second language in many schools in the Okanagan.</p> <p>Discover the Syilx language at <i>First Voices</i>: http://firstvoices.com. The <i>First Voices</i> website is a collection of tools and services designed to support Aboriginal people engaged in language archiving, language teaching & culture revitalization. The <i>First Voices Language Archive</i> contains thousands of text entries in many diverse Indigenous writing systems, enhanced with sounds, pictures and videos. A companion set of interactive online games is designed to present the archived First Voices language data in creative learning activities. Some language archives at <i>FirstVoices</i></p>

	<p>are publicly accessible, while others are password protected at the request of the language community.</p> <p>Discussion Questions: Why is it important to preserve languages? The Syilx people today have developed a written alphabet and dictionary of their language - why?</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p>Field Trip Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sncewips Museum ● En’owkin Centre ● Okanagan Heritage Museum <p>Suggested Resources:</p> <p>Lake Country Museum & Archives (LCMA): Okanagan Syilx exhibits, website exhibition LCMA website resources: http://www.lakecountrymuseum.com/collections/archives/ LCMA website history index: http://www.lakecountrymuseum.com/history/okanagancentre-glacier Sncewips Heritage Museum: https://www.sncewips.com/ Okanagan Heritage Museum: https://www.kelownamuseums.ca/museum/okanagan-heritage-museum/</p> <p><i>Magic on the Water</i> DVD, by Tracey Bonneau Okanagan Nation Alliance www.syilx.org <i>Stories of our sqilx[™] Ways:2016</i> : Okanagan Indian Band <i>Okanagan Geology</i>, by Murray Roed and John Greenough <i>Interior Pictograph Project</i>, by Bruce Goett: www.interiorpicto.com</p>