

# INDIGENOUS KIKINEE FISHING

## ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES



11255 Okanagan Centre Rd. W.  
Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7

### ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about the Kikinee and the Indigenous ways of fishing the Kikinee
2. Multiple activities to apply learning
  - a. Artistic: watercolour painting or crafting a fish out of a bottle
  - b. Go Fish Trivia



**BIG IDEA:** Learning about Indigenous peoples nurtures multicultural awareness & respect for diversity; Indigenous societies throughout the world value the well-being of the self, the land, spirits, & ancestors; Natural resources continue to shape the economy & identity of different regions of Canada

### COMPETENCY:

Historical perspectives inquiry

### CONTENT:

Interconnections of cultural & technological innovations of local Indigenous peoples; relationship between humans and their environment; resources & economic development in different regions of Canada; First Peoples land ownership & use

### WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- Kikinee salmon
- Indigenous fishing techniques

### FURTHER INQUIRY:

*Field Trip Suggestions*

1. Okanagan Rail Trail
2. Lake Country Museum and Archives



**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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**Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society**

**11255 Okanagan Center Road West**

**Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7**

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# Kikinee Fishing

## DISCLAIMER

This activity includes wording such as ‘Indian’ due to the Okanagan Indian Band choosing to use that name for themselves. You may wish to include a brief discussion with your class about this term.

<b>Learning Objective(s)</b>	<p>To introduce fishing practices of the Okanagan First Peoples and how they worked with the environment around them to build their equipment. The activity will end with a discussion about what it means to fish sustainably. This activity is a great way to introduce sustainability and environmental themes to your class.</p>
<b>Suggested Grades</b>	<p>Elementary</p>
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a reference photo of the Kikinee fish mural (either printed out or displayed on a screen for students to see)</li> <li>• Various art materials (watercolours, acrylics, paper, scissors, tape/glue, recycled materials)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Different materials will be required depending on which activity you choose</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Go Fish Trivia             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Blue paper, tissue paper, fabric</li> <li>○ Construction paper</li> <li>○ Magnets</li> <li>○ Stick</li> <li>○ String</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>Lake Country has a <a href="#">mural inspired by the Kikinee fish</a> painted by Don Makela. This mural can be seen from the trail that runs along Vernon Creek. Using this mural as an example, have students create their own interpretation of the history of Kikinee fishing through artistic means.</p> <p>If you have chosen to include this activity as part of a science lesson, you can include the Go Fish game listed below to help check for learning.</p>
<b>Watercolour</b>	<p>Have students lightly sketch out an image of a Kikinee fish in any composition of their choosing. They may also choose to represent one of Indigenous fishing methods in their piece. After, have the students experiment with using water colour paint to add color to their image. They could go for the naturalistic reds of the Kokanee, or perhaps they want to take some creative liberty. Alternatively, you could replace watercolor paint with any other color media</p>

	such as pencil crayon. To debrief and/or assess, you can have each student share the intention behind their design.
<b>Plastic Water Bottle Fish</b>	<p>Have student squish and reform an empty plastic bottle into the shape of a fish. Some may want to trim the end of the bottle with scissors if they want a shorter fish.</p> <p>After, they can paint (we recommend acrylic) their fish to resemble a Kikinee, or their own interpretation of the Kikinee. Once the paint is dry, you can use construction paper to create the fins/gills of the fish. You can tape or glue them on, or cut slits in the bottle to slide the paper in. Students can cut circles from the construction paper to create eyes, or they can use googly eyes.</p>
<b>Go Fish Trivia</b>	<p>If you are wanting a more science-based activity, Go Fish Trivia is a fun way to get students engaged in the factual content.</p> <p>To prepare for the game, a ‘lake’ should be prepared (can be blue paper or sheets), and a fish shapes should be cut out of the construction paper. Alternatively, you can print out a fish shape (provided) if you are short on time.</p> <p>Then, write facts about Kikinee fish and fishing. Make sure to give each one a number and to write the answer beside that number on a separate piece of paper. Glue one magnet onto each fish.</p> <p>To make a fishing rod for your students, take a stick and attach a string to one end of it. Then glue the magnet onto the other end of the string. The student can then use the stick as a rod to ‘catch’ fish by connecting the magnets. You can then ask them the question on the fish. If they answer correctly, they get to keep the fish. If not, the fish goes back to the water. The student with the most fish by the end wins.</p> <p>Here are some sample questions you can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How long do salmon travel during their migration? (1000km)</li> <li>• How many prongs do Indigenous spears have? (3)</li> <li>• Where in the Okanagan do Kikinee spawn? (Shores of Wood Lake)</li> <li>• What are Indigenous fishing nets made from? (Spitsen)</li> </ul>
<b>Historical Context</b>	<p><a href="#">Link to video narration</a></p> <p>In the autumn time the Kikinee come to the shoreline of Wood Lake around Ribbleworth Falls to spawn, bringing them all close to one place at once. But the Kikinee don’t stay for long because being so close to the shore makes it very easy for predators, such as Mergansers, Ling Cod and Lake Trout, to see them.</p> <p>The Indigenous fishers of the Okanagan knew this and had many ways of catching the Kikinee. Since the bay near Ribbleworth Falls was so shallow that you could easily see the Kikinee, nets made of <i>spitsen</i> were used to catch the fish. Spitsen was a weed that was twisted to make a twine, similar to yarn. Attached to the ends of the net, they would have rocks that would be used as</p>

	<p>weights to keep the net close to the bottom of the lake. One fisher would take one end of the net out behind the fish, and the other would pull the net to shore. This led to catching a ton Kikinee at once!</p> <p>The Indigenous fishers also went out in their boats like we do nowadays, but they didn't have fishing rods to work with. They had to either cast out their nets off the side of the boat or use spears to catch the fish. Indigenous spears had three prongs on them to make it easier to pierce a fish. Spear fishing often took place a night. Fishers would use a light source, a torch for example, to attract the fish to their boat, allowing them to easily pierce fish.</p> <p>Indigenous fishers would move their camps with the movement of the Kikinee to have access to a continuous harvest. These traditional ways of fishing that the Okanagan Indigenous people used, show just how creative and resourceful their ideas are! It is very different from how we fish today.</p> <p><i>Optional discussion questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do you think would happen if fishers caught all of the fish in the lake in one season? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Would the fish come back?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How could we make sure there would still be Kikinee in the lake after people would fish each season?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Further Inquiry</b></p>	<p><u><i>Field Trip Suggestions:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Okanagan Rail Trail</a> – Woodsdale Rd to Oyama boat launch. There are historical markers along the Okanagan Rail Trail that talk more about the fish and fishing practices of the area. Visit the markers and trail to imagine what early life was like while opening room for class discussions.</li> <li>• <a href="#">The Lake Country Museum and Archives</a> has a wide range of exhibits and activities for your class to take advantage of. There is also a playground and field behind the building and the lake nearby that students can make use of for various activities. There may be the opportunity for a guest lecturer to visit your classroom or be present at the museum with the knowledge of more local history stories. If interested, please contact the Museum ahead of time.</li> <li>• Visit the <a href="#">Sncewips Heritage Museum</a> in Westbank to learn more about the living history and heritage of the Syilx Okanagan People.</li> </ul>

