

WAMPUM BELT ANALYSIS

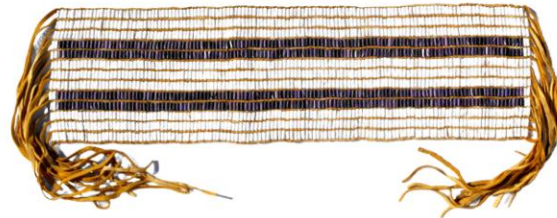
MIDDLE GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES



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

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about primary sources through the history and significance of Wampum Belts
 - a. They will also learn about how Wampum Belts were used in the creation of early Canadian treaties
2. Students will apply their learning by analyzing different Wampum Belts



BIG IDEA: Indigenous knowledge is passed down through oral history, traditions, & collective memory; learning about indigenous peoples nurtures multicultural awareness; Interactions between First Peoples & Europeans lead to conflict & cooperation, which continues to shape Canada's identity.

COMPETENCY:

Inquiry processes, significance, evidence, cause & consequence, perspective, ethical judgement

CONTENT:

Diverse characteristics of communities & cultures in Canada; cultural characteristics/ways of life of local First Peoples; governance/social organization Indigenous societies; oral history, traditional stories, & artifacts as evidence about past First Peoples cultures; early contact, trade, cooperation, & conflict between First Peoples & European peoples

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- What is a primary source
- Purpose of Wampum Belts
- Significance of Wampum Belts in Canadian treaties

FURTHER INQUIRY:

Field Trip Suggestions

1. Pelmewash Parkway
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

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Wampum Belt Analysis

Learning Objective(s)	Students will learn about primary sources through the history and significance of Wampum Belts. They will learn about the purpose of Wampum Belts, how they were used in the creation of Canada, and its continued importance to Indigenous people today.
Suggested Grades	Elementary
ACTIVITY	
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student worksheets (provided) • Depending on how many students/groups you have, print out enough Wampum Belt examples for students to analyse
Introduction	<p>If this is the first time your students are encountering primary sources, have a mini-lesson with your students about primary sources. Before beginning the activity, ensure your students understand that a primary source is a source that provides original information. We suggest doing comparisons between primary and secondary sources to help students develop an understanding.</p> <p>Once you believe that your students have a good understanding of what a primary source is, ask your students if they believe Wampum Belts can be utilized as a primary source. We recommend reviewing the <i>Two-Row Wampum Belt</i> to help students come to a conclusion.</p>
Wampum Belt Analysis	<p>Split students into groups and have them analyse one of the Wampum Belts printed out from the link provided under the <i>Materials</i> tab and fill out a worksheet. Depending on how much time you have, students can pass around the Wampum Belt prints to analyse multiple.</p> <p>Once finished, debrief with your class by having them share their findings. You may find it useful to show larger photos of the belts, which can be found in a slideshow here.</p> <p>Here are some suggested questions to close the activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How were Wampum belts used in forming relationships between groups? • How would the breaking of agreements created through Wampum Belts impact the relationship between groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How would it impact each groups perspective on Wampum Belts? (Indigenous-Indigenous agreements, Indigenous-European agreements)
Historical Context	Wampum Belts are a form of communication and historical record-keeping in Indigenous cultures across North America. Wampum Belts get their name from the material it is created from, wampum, which are hard beads made from polished shells of hard clams found in the Atlantic Ocean. Click here to learn about how Wampum Belts are made.

	<p>Dating back centuries prior to European arrival, wampum beads were used in rituals and trade. Their purpose expanded with the creation of the Iroquois Confederacy, the <i>Haudenosaunee</i>, an alliance among six Indigenous nations: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora. Here, the <i>Great Law of Peace</i>, the constitution of these nation was created and documented using Wampum Belts. From then on, Wampum Belts played a fundamental role in preserving the history, law, and diplomacy among Indigenous groups.</p> <p>These beads are significant in Indigenous communities because they are believed to ensure a person is speaking truthfully. At ceremonies, wampum strings would be held by speakers so the audience would know they spoke the truth. For this reason, Wampum Belts were used in the creation of treaties among the Indigenous people in Canada and the European settlers. Many communities believe these agreements to be the first treaties of Canada.</p> <p>The <i>Two-Row Wampum</i> is one of the oldest signifiers of treaty relations between an Indigenous group and European settlers. The <i>Two-Row Wampum</i> was made in 1613 to document the Iroquois and Dutch commitment to peace, friendship, and promise of equality.</p> <p>Click here to listen to the story as told by Elder Bill of the Mohawk Bear Clan</p> <p>Wampum Belts are still used in ceremony today, but the wampum needed to make them has become a scarce resource. Because many treaties have been broken and as Wampum Belts are sold to private collections, the meaning behind them has become lost.</p> <p>For the Syilx Okanagan People, wampum beads made their way to the Okanagan through the trade routes established by North America’s Indigenous people. They became a valuable, highly sought-after item.</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p><u><i>Field Trip Suggestions:</i></u></p> <p>Lake Country Museum & Archives:</p> <p>The Lake Country Museum & Archives has many different displays that help to shape the narrative of the stories and history of the Okanagan. The museum’s website also has many great resources and more stories that can help lend to many lessons.</p> <p>https://www.lakecountrymuseum.com/</p>

Name:

Date:

WAMPUM BELT ANALYSIS

Use the spaces below to analyse a Wampum Belt:

WAMPUM BELT

What is the name of the Wampum Belt?

When was the Wampum Belt made?

DESCRIBE

- Describe what you see in the beading of the Wampum Belt

IDENTIFY

- Who was there when the Wampum Belt was made?

EXAMINE

- What led to the creation of the Wampum Belt?

CONCLUDE

- What was agreed upon?