

Grade 1

Social Studies

Heritage and Citizenship

- Relationships, Rules, and Responsibilities

Aboriginal Teaching Strategy

Responsibility

Students learn about how Aboriginal peoples demonstrate responsibility for themselves, others, and the environment around them. Students make connections to similar ways in which they demonstrate responsibility.

Related Curriculum Policy

- *The Ontario Curriculum: Social Studies, Grades 1 to 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8, 2004*
- *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1–8: Language, 2006*

Specific Expectations

Social Studies

Knowledge and Understanding

- describe how they follow the rules about respecting the rights and property of other people and about using the shared environment responsibly (e.g., by sharing, being courteous, cooperating, not littering)

Cross-Curricular Connections

Language

Reading: Reading for Meaning

- 1.1 read a few different types of literary texts (e.g., pattern books, rhymes, books from home, simple fiction stories), graphic texts (e.g., calendars, environmental print, signs), and informational texts (e.g., morning messages, strategy charts, instructions, simple non-fiction books, labels)
- 1.4 demonstrate understanding of a text by retelling the story or restating information from the text, including the main idea (e.g., retell a story or restate facts, including the main idea and important events, in accurate time order; role-play or dramatize a story or informational text using puppets or props)
- 1.5 use stated and implied information and ideas in texts, initially with support and direction, to make simple inferences and reasonable predictions about them

Teaching Strategies

- Talk with students about their understanding of the concept of responsibility.
Teacher prompt: What do you (other people) do to show you are responsible in school (at home, in the community)?
- Record their ideas on a concept web.
- Read aloud a story that illustrates responsible behaviour in the Aboriginal community (see Resources).
Teacher prompt: How do the characters in the story demonstrate responsibility?
- Add students' responses to the web. Read aloud additional texts to help students develop their understanding of the concept, as required.
- Help students as a class find commonalities among the ideas recorded on the concept web.
- Help students make connections between the Aboriginal concept of responsibility and their responsibility to themselves, each other, and the environment they are in.

Resources

Blake, Robert J. *Akaik: A Tale from the Iditarod*. New York: Philomel Books, 1997. ISBN: 0399227989. A story about the responsibility that dogs and humans have for each other during the Iditarod dog sled race.

Goble, Paul. *The Gift of the Sacred Dog*. New York: Aladdin Books–Macmillan Publishing, 1980. A story about the sharing of the horse “Sacred Dog” with the people.

Himmelman, John. *Pipaluk and the Whales*. Washington: National Geographic Society, 2001. ISBN: 0-7922-8217-5. A story about the Inuit's responsibility to the beluga whales and how they helped save the whales.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ach/lr/ks/index-eng.asp>. A variety of resources focused on traditions, culture, events, and achievements.

Plain, Ferguson. *Eagle Feather*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 2006. A moving story that explains the significance of the eagle feather in Ojibway culture as a grandfather gently explains respect for the environment to his grandson.

Umpherville, Tina. *The Spring Celebration*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 1995. ISBN: 0-921827-46-6. A story about a young girl's involvement in the spring community picnic in Brochet, Manitoba.

Making Community Connections

- Have students write or tell about the ways in which they show responsibility in their classroom, school, home, or community, or how they show responsibility to the earth/the environment.

ABOUT THE TEACHER'S TOOLKIT

This teaching strategy is one component of *Aboriginal Perspectives: The Teacher's Toolkit*, a collection of resources designed to help Ontario educators bring Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom. Based on the revised Ontario curriculum, the collection includes resources for educators at both the elementary and secondary levels. Other resources in this series can be found on the ministry website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca.

