

Grade 6 Social Studies

Heritage and Citizenship

- First Nation Peoples and European Explorers

Aboriginal Teaching Strategy

Different but Similar – Comparing Algonquian and Iroquoian Nations

Students research and compare key social and cultural characteristics of nations within the Algonquian and Iroquoian groups.

Related Curriculum Policy

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

Specific Expectations

Knowledge and Understanding

- compare key social and cultural characteristics of Algonquian and Iroquoian groups (e.g., language; agriculture and hunting; governance; matriarchal and patriarchal societies; arts; storytelling; trade; recreation; roles of men, women, and children)

Inquiry/Research and Communication Skills

- use and construct a variety of graphic organizers to clarify and interpret information (e.g., cause-and-effect diagrams linking the environment and First Nation cultures, mind maps to connect the results of early contact, diagrams and captions to illustrate technological advances that allowed exploration)

Aboriginal Context

The Algonquian and Iroquoian groups are broad, language-based groups. Within each group, there are a number of different nations. Languages and dialects differ among the nations, depending on their location and traditional knowledge, and their ways of life may also vary slightly.

Teaching Strategies

- Divide the class into small groups. Have each group research a topic from the following list, focusing on either one Algonquian nation or one Iroquoian nation: language; agriculture and hunting; governance; whether the society is matriarchal or patriarchal; the arts; storytelling; trade; recreation; or the roles of men, women, and children. Each group should research a topic on a different First Nation, if possible.
- Have students research one other social or cultural topic from the list, this time picking a topic that is important to them because of its significance in their own community.
- Have students record what they found out on a mind map.
- Pair each group of students with another that researched a different First Nation, and have the students share what they learned with each other. Have them create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two nations with regard to the social and cultural topics they researched.
- Have students write a summary of what they learned about the Algonquian and Iroquoian nations they studied.

Resources

The Canadian Encyclopedia. "Algonquin". <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0000140>. Information about the Algonquian language and group of communities.

The Canadian Encyclopedia. "Iroquois". <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1SEC877039>. Information about the Iroquois people.

First Nations Seeker. <http://www.firstnationsseeker.ca/>. Provides links to individual Algonquian and Iroquois First Nations.

Iroquois Net. <http://www.iroquois.net/>. Provides links to sites containing information about the Iroquois.

Kirk, Connie Ann. *The Mohawks of North America*. First Peoples series. Toronto: Lerner Publishing Group, 2002. ISBN: 978-0-8225-4853-9. Provides information about the history and present-day life of the Mohawks.

Native Languages of the Americas. Algonquin. <http://www.native-languages.org/Algonquin.htm>. Contains comprehensive information about the Algonquin language, and the history and culture of the Algonquians.

Robinson, D. *The Cree of North America*. First Peoples series. Toronto: Lerner Publishing Group, 2002. ISBN: 978-0-8225-4178-3. An in-depth look at Cree culture.

Making Community Connections

- Contact a First Nation Cultural Centre and ask for materials students can use to learn about First Nations.

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.

