



Indigenous Veteran's Day Honouring Métis Veterans



Aen shinihkatayk

Title:

Honouring Métis Veterans

Wiihtamakayhk kaykwy kaa kishkayhtamihk

Explaining what is being learned/overview:

In this lesson, students will learn about the vital contributions of Métis veterans in Canada's history, while also examining the challenges they faced during and after their service. Through historical sources, narratives, and class discussion, students will explore why Métis veterans' stories have often been left out of mainstream accounts and how this omission reflects broader systemic inequities. By engaging with these perspectives, students will develop historical empathy, recognize the importance of Métis voices in Canada's past, and reflect on how remembering these veterans contributes to truth, reconciliation, and honoring Métis identity today.

Kaykwy chi kii ishpayihk

Curriculum Connections

HISTORY/NATIVE STUDIES

Analyze the role of Indigenous peoples, including the Métis, in Canadian and global events.

Examine the impact of systemic inequities on Indigenous peoples in Canada.

CR A30.2

View and evaluate critically information and ideas obtained from First Nations, Métis, Saskatchewan, and Canadian visual and multimedia texts including an advertisement, news broadcast, poster, and film.

CR A30.3

Listen to, comprehend, and develop coherent and plausible interpretations of grade-appropriate literary and informational texts created by First Nations, Métis, Saskatchewan, and Canadian speakers and authors from various communities.

CR A30.4

Read, demonstrate comprehension of, and apply knowledge from grade-appropriate informational (including editorials, reviews, and articles) and literary (including fiction, script, poetry, and non-fiction) texts from First Nations, Métis, Saskatchewan, and Canadian authors as a basis for understanding self and the multiplicity of voices and perspectives that make up Canadian culture.

L'aanii d'ikol

Year of school/grade:

Eleven and Twelve

Kaykwy kaa kishkayhtamihk

What is being learned/subject:

ELA A30, History/Native Studies

Li taan

Time:

60-90 minutes



Gashkihtaan

I can statements:

- I can understand the contributions and sacrifices of Métis veterans in Canada's history.
- I can recognize the systemic barriers Métis veterans faced upon returning home.
- I can reflect on how Métis veterans' legacies shape reconciliation and cultural identity today.

Niikaan lii kesyoon

Focus question:

- What contributions did Métis veterans make during Canada's military history?
- Why have the stories of Métis veterans often been overlooked in mainstream Canadian history?
- How does learning about Métis veterans help us better understand reconciliation today?
- What responsibilities do we have, as learners, in honouring and sharing the legacy of Métis veterans?



Indigenous Veteran's Day Honouring Métis Veterans



Lesson Description

taanishi aen ishi ooshihtaahk

Motivational Set:

1. Show students a historic photo of a Métis veteran in uniform or a short clip from the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture (e.g., WWII Métis veterans).
<https://www.metismuseum.ca/metisveteransmonument/search.php>

Ask:

- "When we think of Canadian soldiers, whose stories usually come to mind?"
 - "Why do you think some stories, like those of Métis veterans, may not be widely known?"
2. Briefly introduce that Métis served in both World Wars and other conflicts, including their own battles with the Canadian Government, but many are not recognized for it, nor compensated fairly afterward.

Main Procedures:

Jigsaw with Primary/Secondary Sources

1. Divide students into small groups. Provide each with a short resource on Métis veterans, such as:
 - Excerpts from oral histories.
<https://www.metismuseum.ca/metisveteransmonument/search.php>
 - A biography of a Métis veteran (e.g., Charles "Checker" Tomkins, Métis code talker).
<https://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/charles-tomkins>
 - Articles on systemic inequities (loss of land benefits, lack of recognition).
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans>
2. Each group reads and discusses:
 - What contributions did this Métis veteran/community make?
 - What challenges did they face during/after service?
 - How does this story connect to reconciliation today?

Should discussion prove challenging for students, have them answer these questions on paper instead.

3. Groups then "teach" their findings to the class.

Summative Assessment: Historical Empathy Writing Task

- Students write a short journal entry from the perspective of a Métis veteran returning home.
- Describe both pride in service and frustrations with inequitable treatment.
- Share selected responses aloud.

Teachers Note:

Assessment not provided due to the flexible nature of the task options; please develop your own assessment as appropriate to align with curriculum outcomes and the assignment objectives.



Indigenous Veteran's Day Honouring Métis Veterans



Resources

- Gabriel Dumont Institute Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture – Veterans section.
<https://www.metismuseum.ca/metisveteransmonument/search.php>
- Veterans Affairs Canada: Indigenous Veterans resources.
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans>
- Short video: Forgotten Warriors (NFB) – highlights Indigenous veterans.
https://www.nfb.ca/film/forgotten_warriors/
- (Optional) Métis Soldiers of Saskatchewan: 1914-1953 | Gabriel Dumont Institute
<https://gdins.org/product/metis-soldiers-of-saskatchewan-1914-1953/>

