



# Grade 7 Inquiry Project

## Whose Stories Does the Land Tell?

### Liah Van Veen's Grade 7 Inquiry Project

#### Whose Stories Does the Land Tell?

##### Driving Question

How do the land, stories, and histories of local Indigenous Peoples shape our understanding of place, identity, and responsibility?

#### Project Overview

In this inquiry project, you will explore the relationships between Indigenous Peoples, the land, and storytelling. You will investigate how local Indigenous communities have developed and maintained connections to the land over time and how these relationships continue today.

You will become a researcher, listener, storyteller, and learner as you gather information, ask questions, reflect on your learning, and create a final project that shares your understanding with others.

#### Learning Goals

By the end of this project, you will be able to:

- Ask meaningful questions and conduct research.
- Explore Indigenous perspectives, stories, and knowledge systems.
- Understand the relationship between land, identity, culture, and community.
- Make connections between your learning and your own experiences.
- Create and share a project that communicates your learning clearly.
- Reflect on your responsibilities to the land, your community, and others.

#### First Peoples Principles of Learning

Throughout this project, we will focus on the principle:

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

We will also explore how learning is:

- Holistic, experiential, and relational.
- Connected to identity and community.
- Rooted in respect, responsibility, and reciprocity.
- A lifelong journey.

# Project Process

## Step 1: Wonder

Begin by exploring Indigenous stories, maps, videos, guest speakers, community resources, and local histories.

Ask yourself:

- What am I curious about?
- What do I want to learn?
- What stories does this place hold?

## Create an Inquiry Question

Examples:

- How do Indigenous stories teach people about the land?
- Why are Indigenous place names important?
- How do Indigenous Peoples care for the environment?
- How does storytelling preserve culture and identity?
- What responsibilities do we have to the land today?

Your Inquiry Question:

## Step 2: Investigate

Gather information from a variety of sources.

Possible sources:

- Indigenous-authored books
- Articles and websites
- Videos and podcasts
- Community members
- Elders and Knowledge Keepers
- Outdoor observations
- Maps and historical resources

Record:

- New learning
- Questions
- Important ideas
- Connections
- Sources used

## Step 3: Connect

Participate in:

- Class discussions
- Reflection circles
- Outdoor learning experiences
- Observation activities
- Storytelling opportunities

Think about:

- What am I learning about this place?
- What relationships exist between people and the land?
- How does this connect to my own experiences?
- What responsibilities do I have?

## Step 4: Create

Choose one way to share your learning:

- Podcast
- Digital Story Map
- Documentary Video
- Website
- Digital Presentation
- Visual Art with Oral Presentation
- Other (teacher approved)

Your project should:

- Answer your inquiry question.
- Include information from reliable sources.
- Include Indigenous perspectives.
- Demonstrate reflection and personal connections.
- Communicate your learning clearly.

## Step 5: Share

Present your learning during our Inquiry Showcase.

As you listen to others:

- Be respectful.
- Ask thoughtful questions.
- Celebrate learning.
- Reflect on new ideas.

# Reflection

Something new I learned:

A connection I made:

A question I still have:

One action I can take based on my learning:

## Success Criteria

I can...

- Ask thoughtful questions.
- Gather information from multiple sources.
- Respectfully engage with Indigenous perspectives.
- Make meaningful connections to land, story, and identity.
- Reflect on my learning.
- Share my understanding clearly and creatively.
- Listen respectfully and learn from others.

### Remember

Inquiry learning is not about finding one right answer. It is about asking questions, exploring ideas, learning from others, and deepening your understanding. Stay curious, be respectful, and enjoy the journey of learning.