

# Learning Through Two Eyes

## Liah Van Veen's Grade 7 Two-eyed Seeing

### Understanding Local Ecosystems Through Indigenous and Western Knowledge

#### Essential Question

How can learning from multiple ways of knowing help us better understand and care for the world around us?

#### Learning Goal

Today we will explore how Indigenous and Western ways of knowing can help us better understand the natural world. We will learn about Two-Eyed Seeing and investigate how different perspectives can deepen our understanding of local ecosystems and environmental issues.

#### What is Two-Eyed Seeing?

Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk) is a concept introduced by Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall.

It means:

"Learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledge and using both together for the benefit of all."

Two-Eyed Seeing teaches us that there is more than one way to understand the world. Indigenous and Western knowledge systems each offer valuable insights, and we can learn from both.

#### Learning Through Observation

As you participate in today's investigation, think about:

- What do you notice about the environment around you?
- What relationships exist between living things?
- What patterns or changes can be observed?
- How might different people understand the same place differently?

## Ecosystem Investigation

Environmental Topic:

Group Members:

#### Indigenous Knowledge Perspective

Consider the following questions:

- What relationships are important within this ecosystem?
- What stories, teachings, or experiences might be connected to this place?

- How might long-term observation help us understand this ecosystem?
- What responsibilities do people have to care for this place?
- What knowledge can be gained from this perspective?

## Western Science Perspective

Consider the following questions:

- What data could be collected?
- What patterns or changes could be measured?
- What scientific explanations could be explored?
- What evidence would be needed?
- What knowledge can be gained from this perspective?

## Two-Eyed Seeing

After exploring both perspectives, discuss:

What can we learn when both perspectives are considered together?

What might be missed if only one perspective is used?

How do these perspectives complement one another?

## Reflection

What is one new thing you learned today?

What surprised you?

What did you learn from the Indigenous perspective that you may not have learned through science alone?

What did you learn from the Western perspective?

**Why is it important to respect multiple ways of knowing?**

**How can Two-Eyed Seeing support reconciliation?**

**How can learning from multiple perspectives help us care for the land and our communities?**

## **Self-Assessment**

**I can...**

- ☐ Explain Two-Eyed Seeing in my own words.
- ☐ Identify strengths of Indigenous and Western knowledge systems.
- ☐ Respectfully listen to and discuss different perspectives.
- ☐ Make connections between land, relationships, and learning.
- ☐ Explain how Two-Eyed Seeing can support reconciliation.
- ☐ Reflect on my own learning and understanding.

**One question I still have:**

**One thing I would like to learn more about:**