



Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen (The Words That Come Before All Else)

Organizational Info:

Title: Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen (The Words That Come Before All Else)

Summary: Students review the Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen (The Words That Come Before All Else) and consider the centrality of water to Haudenosaunee and other local Indigenous groups.

Big Idea: Big Idea A. Indigenous Knowledge is contained in Language and Storytelling: *Indigenous ways of knowing can be taught through polysynthetic Indigenous languages and storytelling ie: Creation stories, the Thanksgiving Address, 3 Sisters etc.; Responsibilities to land are inherent in language and storytelling.*

Inquiry Question: Inquiry Question 1: According to local Indigenous groups, what is water, where did it come from, and why is it important?

Duration: 40 minutes

Learning Environment: Classroom, online, outdoor

Season: Summer, Spring, Fall, Winter, All

Materials:

- Short video segment embedded in the ten-minute video accompanying the Indigenous Knowledge Bundle depicting Kanyen'kehá:ka (Akwesasne Mohawk Territory), Wolf Clan educator Liv Rondeau speaking about the significance of the Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen
- Short clip embedded on the QUILLS website of Liv Rondeau reciting the Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen
- Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen (The Words That Come Before All Else):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJH_5TXzCjw
- Haudenosaunee Creation Story (Onondaga Historical Society):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDuO3IPHpP0>
- Anishinaabe Creation story- The Great Flood:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RYByws56TQ>
- Anishinaabe The Great Flood.pdf
- Haudenosaunee Sky Woman Falling.pdf

Meta Data:

Content Type: Language learning, storytelling

Bundle: Water, Tools, Food, Gifts of the Earth, IK

Theme: Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Contaminants in the Environment

Subject Area: Art, Biology, Chemistry, Drama, Environmental Education, Geography, Health, History, Language Arts, Mathematics, Music, Outdoor Education, Physical Education, Physics, Science, Social Studies

Curriculum Focus: 7, 8, 9, 10

Curriculum Links:

Science and Technology: A3.3, E1.2



We recommend inviting an Indigenous community member into the learning environment when discussing creation stories with students.

- Review the Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen (The Words That Come Before All Else):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJH_5TXzCjw
- To do this teachers can also play short video segment embedded in the ten-minute video accompanying the Indigenous Knowledge Bundle depicting Kanyen'kehá:ka (Akwesasne Mohawk Territory), Wolf Clan educator Liv Rondeau speaking about the significance of the Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen. Additionally, teachers can play a short clip embedded on the QUILLS website of Liv Rondeau reciting the Ohèn:ton Karihwatéhkwen.
- Ask students why they think the Haudenosaunee give thanks to the water in addition to the land.

Creation Stories

- Review Creation Stories.
 - Haudenosaunee Creation Story (Onondaga Historical Society):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDUO3IPHpP0>
 - Anishinaabe Creation story- The Great Flood:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1RYByws56TQ>
 - Stories can also be accessed in **Anishinaabe The Great Flood.pdf** and **Haudenosaunee Sky Woman Falling.pdf**
 - Teachers discuss with students how in both Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee cultures water is central to the creation story. Without water there is no life. Water is a gift from the creator.