



Giving Thanks to the Water

Organizational Info:

Title: Giving Thanks to the Water

Summary: Students practice reciprocity by releasing their good intentions and thoughts into a local water source.

Inquiry Question: Inquiry Question 4: What are our collective responsibilities to the water and how can we fulfill them?

Duration: 30-40 min

Learning Environment: Outdoor

Season: Summer, Spring, Fall

Materials:

- Large receptacle
- Water
- Ladle
- Tobacco (asemaa)
- Access to local water body

Meta Data:

Content Type: Activity

Bundle: Water

Theme: Contaminants in the Environment

Subject Area: Biology, Environmental Education, Geography, Health, History, Outdoor Education, Science, Social Studies

Curriculum Focus: 8

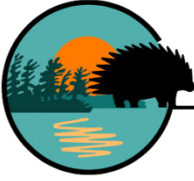
Curriculum Links:

Science and Technology: E1.2, E2.6

We recommend inviting an Indigenous community member into the learning environment to help facilitate this holistic closing activity.

Learning Bundle closed through a holistic relationship building activity.

1. Students collectively (one at a time) transfer water from one vessel to another (ie: large bowl). Each time students transfer water ie: spoon it over, student puts their good thoughts/intentions into the water.
2. Class identifies a local body of water that they are connected to and care about.
3. Class goes to local body of water to release water along with all of their good thoughts and intentions.
4. If accompanied by an Elder or Knowledge Keeper class can put down tobacco (asemaa). To learn more about tobacco teachings and tobacco protocols, please check out the Teacher's Guide.



Optional Extension:

Students find a quiet spot near water and reflect on the experience of releasing water in their Outdoor Learning Journals (introduced in the Teacher's Guide).

Please note that the learning represented in these activities reflects Big Idea C. in the Indigenous Knowledge Learning Bundle: "Reciprocity, Interdependence, and Holism are at the Heart of Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being". To help your students learn more about these foundational concepts check out the Learning Activities titled: *Holism*, *The Honorable Harvest*, and *Our Responsibilities* found in the *Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Being with the Natural World* Learning Bundle (Grades 7-10).