

Grade 2 Social Studies #1: October 26 – October 30, 2020

Lesson Focus: What is the relationship between the Cowichan People and the environment?

Materials:

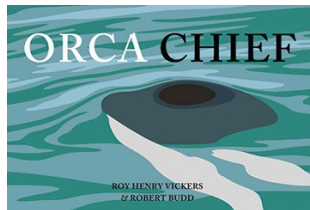
- Internet access for videos
- Notebook

Invitation to Learn:

In this lesson you will gather evidence to identify how the Cowichan people are caretakers of the land.

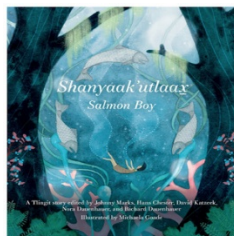
Watch these videos:

Orca Chief – Roy Henry Vickers and Lucky Budd



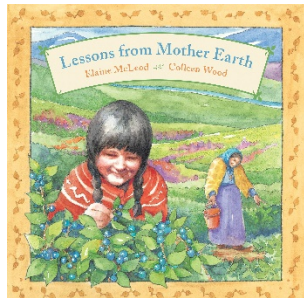
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHMYkUhT65U>

Salmon Boy (told in Tlingit)



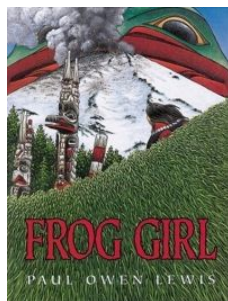
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGH8cmKKZ78>

Lessons from Mother Earth. By Elaine McLeod and Colleen Wood



<https://www.facebook.com/LaSalleElementary/videos/in-this-video-ms-sarah-reads-lessons-from-mother-earth-while-you-are-listening-a/671223263638608/>

Frog Girl. By Paul Owen Lewis



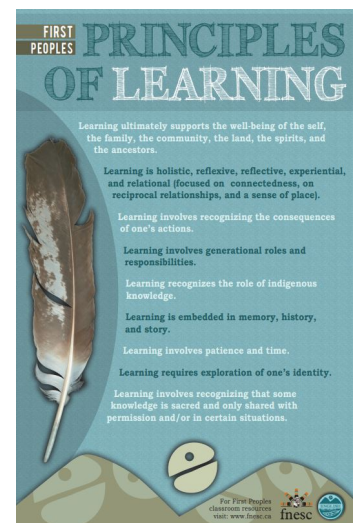
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayc3bJj4HRA>

Have a Discussion:

- What does the word "balanced" mean?
 - In order for something to be balanced both sides need to be the same. If you put too much on one side, the other side will go up; if you take something away, the other side will go down.

Learning from First Peoples

Indigenous peoples around the world have a deep connection to the environment. Although their protocols and practices may differ, they all share one common ground: complete respect for the land and all that it provides. Indigenous people believe that they are "stewards/carers of the land."







Look at the 3 images above.

Ask:

- What do you see in each photo?
- What evidence of the Cowichan people's relationship with the environment do you see in each photo?

Discuss:

- The Cowichan People's Relationship with the Environment
 - The Cowichan people are based in Duncan in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. However, their traditional territory covers part of the southeast coast of Vancouver Island and into the mainland to Lulu Island along the Fraser River.
 - The Cowichan people are part of the Coast Salish People. For thousands of years, they have used the resources in their

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- environment for food and to make the items that they needed in their daily lives. For example, cedar wood was used for houses, canoes, paddles, storage boxes, totem poles, ceremonial masks, and tools. Its bark was used to make clothing, mats, rope, and baskets. The Cowichan people view the cedar as sacred because it provides the material for many of the essential items that they use every day.
- The Cowichan people today take steps to protect their local forests. The first image/photo is of a Cowichan Elder sharing his knowledge about local plants and their uses. Elders teach that everything in nature is connected and only what is needed should be taken. Doing this helps to maintain balance in nature and preserve land and resources for future generations.
 - The Cowichan people also have a fish hatchery. The purpose of the fish hatchery is to increase the salmon stock in the Cowichan River. The second photo shows a worker from the fish hatchery putting salmon fry into a pen. There, the fry will develop into smolts in a few years and then be released into the river.
 - Salmon have been a valuable resource and an essential part of the Cowichan culture, traditions, economy, and identity. Salmon was the major food source and the most important fish in their traditional economy. Salmon were treated with great respect. Elders carefully decided when, where, and how to fish. People passed down stories and knowledge about the salmon to prevent overfishing.
 - The Cowichan people have always taken great care of nature because they understand that their existence relies on the environment.

Notebook Time:

Answer the questions on the worksheet below (What are some things that you can do to take care of your environment?) or you can record in your notebook.

- Think about 2 things that you can do to take care of your environment.
- Go out and do it. Take pictures of you taking care of your environment.
 - Write about what you did and how your actions will help take care of the environment.
 - Include pictures of your stewardship.

