

Lesson Focus: What is the role of an Elder in First Peoples Communities?

Materials:

- Internet access for videos
- Notebook and art supplies

Invitation to Learn:

In this lesson you will be gathering evidence about what an Elder does in a community.

Watch these videos:

What is an Elder?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLQePjQfR-U>

Indigenous Elder Definition

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/indigenous-elder-definition>

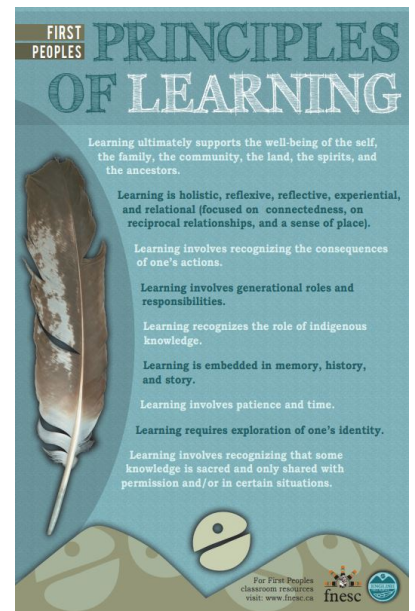
Have a Discussion:

Discuss the term community leaders.

- What does the term "community leaders" mean?
 - **people in a community who take responsibility for the well-being and improvement of their community**
- What leaders do you see in your community?
 - What qualities make these people good leaders?
 - What do these leaders do to represent your community?

Learning from First Peoples

In exploring leadership roles in First Peoples' communities, students will recognize the generational roles and responsibilities of Elders in the community.



Look at the image above.

Ask:

- What do you think is happening in this image?
 - What clues support your thinking?
 - **This image shows a group of people engaging in a smudging ceremony. Smudging is a practice that many First Peoples engage in. This ceremony is a way to remove negative energy and become more mindful and present for the task at hand. (It is a way to let go of the past, be in the moment, or be calm in the face of stress that they might be experiencing.)**
 - How are the objects being used in this image? Why might they be important?
 - **Sage is commonly used in smudging and may be held in shells or stone bowls. The smoke itself may be pushed toward others in the circle by a feather.**
 - Who might be the leader in this image? How can you tell?
 - **The person holding the feather and stone bowl appears to be in a position of power.**
 - What do you think is the role of an elder?
 - **An Elder is a person of respect, knowledge, and guidance within their community. Elders are seen as teachers and storytellers who provide guidance to their communities. They are seen as positive role models within their communities and are addressed and treated with great respect.**
 - Would the explanation above fit your understanding of Elders in your family community?

Notebook Time:

If you could be an elder to a younger sibling or friend what would you want to teach them. Think of one piece of wisdom/skill/guidance that you would like to share.

- Create an image showing you as an elder sharing your wisdom/skill/guidance to a member of your community.
- Create a label for your image that describes/explains what you are sharing