

Lesson Focus: Building Relationships

Materials:

- Internet access for videos
- Notebook and art supplies

Invitation to Learn:

In this lesson you will be thinking about how you build relationships

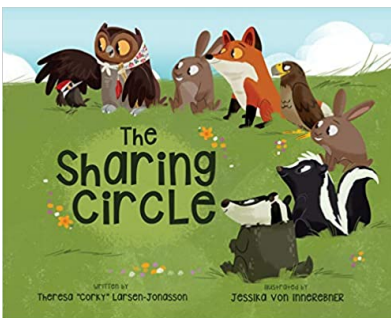
Discuss:

- What makes someone a good friend?
- What's important about being a friend?
- How can you make friends?
 - Can you think of some examples?
 - Friends:
 - are kind, patient and listen to each other
 - share ideas and feelings
 - play and work cooperatively with others
 - ask for help when they need it
 - see when others need help/support and provide it
 - work with others to solve problems
 - think of different ways to solve problems

Watch this video:

**The Sharing Circle. By
Theresa “Corky” Larsen-
Jonasson**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY6sYm94V8E>



Have a Discussion:

- Where does the story take place?
 - **Great Plains**
- Who is in the story?
 - **Morning Star, River, Animal Friends, Older Buffalo, Kokum**
- What is the problem in the story?
 - **Morning Star and River had a misunderstanding.**
- How was the problem solved?
 - **Older Buffalo went to Kokum the Great Horned owl for help. Kokum held a Sharing Circle and invited all of the animals to participate. Everyone had a chance to speak and soon they began to understand that their argument was a misunderstanding. The friends forgave each other.**
- Why did Older Buffalo go to Kokum?
 - **She knew that Kokum played an important role in the community and was very wise and had knowledge and skills that she could share with the younger animals.**
 - **Elders have an important role in the Aboriginal community.**

- Why did Kokum hold a Sharing Circle?
 - **Listening skills and patience are very important and the friends needed a chance to talk about how they were feeling.**
 - **Sharing is important to all people. When we share, we help and learn from the people we are sharing with. Many First Nations believe they share Earth with all other living things.**
- Why did Kokum suggest sitting in a circle?
 - **The circle shows that everyone is connected, has a place, and has a chance to share their stories/ideas.**
- How did the animals know when it was their time to share?
 - **When they held the talking stick.**
- What were the other animals expected to do when someone else held the talking stick?
 - **Listen respectfully with their eyes and ears.**
- In what direction did the animals pass the talking stick? Why?
 - **To the left because that is the direction that the sun travels.**

Notebook Time:

- Think of a time you had a problem/misunderstanding with a family member or friend.
- Complete the worksheet on the next page.
 - Write about your connection.
 - Draw a picture showing the problem.

The Sharing Circle

by Theresa “Corky” Larson-Jonasson

Thinking About Connections

When I heard the part about River and Morning Star’s misunderstanding, it reminded me of the time that _____

