

Grade Level: 4 - 5

Curriculum: Explorations, ADST, Social Studies

Title of Lesson: Now is the Time

Learning Goals/Objectives:

- Skills are developed through practice, effort, and action.
- The choice of technology and tools depends on the task.
- Take stakeholders' perspectives on issues, developments, or events by making inferences about their beliefs, values, and motivations
- Family and community relationships can be a source of support and guidance when solving problems and making decisions.

Materials Needed:

- Computer/Internet Access
- Pencil and Paper

Activity Instructions: (Step by Step)

- Watch the short film, "Now is the Time" directed by Christopher Auchter
 - <https://www.nfb.ca/film/now-is-the-time/>
- The film tells the story of the first Totem Pole raising in Masset (located on Haida Gwaii) in nearly 100 years. During this time, it was illegal for all Indigenous people in Canada to participate in any of their cultural traditions.
 - In 1884, Potlach and other cultural practices were made illegal. This was in effect until 1951. During the late 1800s, many of totem poles around Haida Gwaii were taken down and destroyed because settlers misunderstood their meaning.
 - The pole from this film was carved over the span of 3 months, but wasn't raised until 1969. Why do you think it took almost 20 years to raise another totem pole after it became legal again?
 - During the time that ceremonies were deemed illegal by the Canadian government, many of the traditional and sacred garments (blankets, headpieces and others) were taken, destroyed or lost. What is the significance (why is it important) that the elders wore paper versions during the raising of the pole, and at the potlach afterwards?
 - The process of raising the pole took a lot of help from the community. Both the Eagle and Raven clans participated in the raising ceremony, which was

not traditionally how things were done. Why do you think it was important that both clans worked together to raise the pole?

- Can you think of a time, or an occasion, where your community (or family) comes together to support each other?
 - Either draw a picture of how this looks for you and your family community, or write a short paragraph describing the event!

Extensions (Optional):

- Which Simple Machines did the community use to raise the pole? Can you name the three used in the making, moving and raising of the pole?
- Want a bit more information? Here is a film made about this pole raising from 1970, and much of the footage from “Now is the Time” is from this one:
 - <https://www.nfb.ca/film/this-was-the-time/>