

# Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education



## Eleven Recommended Storytelling Resources from MOOC Participants

### Circle of Stories

From the website:

“Circle of Stories uses documentary film, photography, artwork and music to honor and explore Native American storytelling.”

<http://www.pbs.org/circleofstories/index.html>

### First Nations Pedagogy

From the website:

“This site is the culmination of a project funded by BC Campus that allowed two education experts, Sylvia Currie and June Kaminski, representing Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and Kwantlen Polytechnic University to create an online resource that builds on research, consultation, and community-based activities. This site provides best practices and support for online learning initiatives that are intended for aboriginal students, elders, educators, curriculum developers, and educational leaders.”

<http://firstnationspedagogy.ca/storytelling.html>

### Flight of the Hummingbird

From the website:

“The hummingbird parable, with origins in the Quechuan people of South America, has become a talisman for environmentalists and activists who are committed to making meaningful change in the world. In this inspiring story, the determined hummingbird does everything she can to put out a raging fire that threatens her forest home. The hummingbird - symbol of wisdom and courage - demonstrates that doing something is better than doing nothing at all.

The parable is embraced by two of the world's most influential leaders: Wangari Maathai, the Nobel Peace Prize winner from Kenya who launched the Green Belt Movement, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who has spoken widely about his commitment to preserving the environment. This courageous little book features artwork by internationally-renowned artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. His distinct and lively Haida Manga style engages perfectly with this inspirational story that encourages every individual to act on behalf of the world's limited and precious resources.”

<http://mny.ca/en/flight-of-the-hummingbird.html>

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## Four Directions Teachings

From the website:

“The goal for the project was to create an engaging site where people could experience Indigenous knowledge and philosophy and where educators could incorporate the site into their curriculum. *FourDirectionsTeachings.com* honors oral traditions by creating an environment where visitors are encouraged to listen with intent as each elder/ traditional teacher shares a teaching from their perspective on the richness and value of cultural traditions from their nation.”

<http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com/>

## I'm Not the Indian You Had in Mind

From the website:

*I'm Not the Indian You Had in Mind* challenges the stereotypical portrayal First Nations peoples in the media. This spoken word short offers an insight of how First Nations people today are changing old ideas and empowering themselves in the greater community.

The actors, in business suits, jeans, and typical urban attire are juxtaposed against the loincloth-wearing, tomahawk wielding Natives of yesterday's spaghetti westerns.

Through the use of stock footage, language, and common artifacts like a cigar store Indian, the viewer is encouraged to examine the profound role that these one-dimensional media representations have played in shaping their perspectives of an entire group of people. The man living next door, the woman working in the next cubicle, or the stoic wood carving in front of the cigar store – which Indian did you have in mind?”

<http://www.nsi-canada.ca/2012/03/im-not-the-indian-you-had-in-mind/>

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## In Our Own Words (K-3)

From the website:

“This resource has been developed in response to desire on the part of teachers for more guidance and information on how to incorporate First Peoples materials into their instruction and assessment practices. Educators and communities have long recognized a need for increased information and support in the use of culturally appropriate and meaningful First Peoples content, materials, and teaching methods.”

<http://tinyurl.com/owjcvck>

## Math Catcher: Mathematics through Aboriginal Storytelling

From the website:

“The Math Catcher Outreach program aims to promote mathematics and scholarship in general by encouraging elementary and high school students to recognize how math is used in everyday life and how it forms the basis for many of our daily decisions and life-long choices. The storytelling, pictures, models, and hands-on activities encourage young people to enjoy math and help dispel myths that math is boring and abstract.

Another key component of the program is to introduce these concepts to Aboriginal students through the use of First Nations imagery and storytelling. The Program has produced animated films in several First Nations languages (Blackfoot, Cree, Squamish, Heiltsuk, Nisga’a, Sliammon, Halq’em’eylem, Hul’q’umi’num’, and Huu-ay-aht) as well as bilingual picture books in Blackfoot/English, Cree/English, Squamish/English, Nisga’a/English, and Sliammon/English.

The Program is based on the belief that it is crucial that we engage Aboriginal students in mathematics and science at the early age.”

<http://mathcatcher.irmacs.sfu.ca/>

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## **Our Voices: Omushkego Oral History Project**

From the website:

“In Aboriginal culture, teachings are passed from generation to generation in a rich tradition of storytelling. Join the University of Winnipeg's Centre for Rupert's Land Studies as they welcome Louis Bird, Aboriginal scholar and storyteller.

As part of the Omushkego Oral History Project, Bird will share - in Cree and in English - a sampling of the stories of the Omushkegowak or "Swampy Cree" people of the Hudson and James Bay Lowlands of northern Manitoba and Ontario.

Bird is from Peawanuck Ontario and has shared his stories with audiences throughout Canada, the United States, and Europe. In addition to performing traditional Cree legends, mystery stories, and oral history, Bird has devoted three decades to documenting Cree oral traditions. He began making audiotape recordings of the stories told by his elders in 1965. Today, his collection comprises more than 340 hours of material - the largest extant collection of such recordings.”

[www.ourvoices.ca](http://www.ourvoices.ca)

## **Raven Tales**

From the website:

“Raven Tales is series of half-hour, (24min.) CGI-animated television programs, targeted at school-age children and their families that introduce Aboriginal folklore in a humorous and entertaining way. They tell the stories of the many adventures of Raven, the most powerful deity of Aboriginal mythology. Each episode features an original interpretation of a popular tale from the folklore of our First Peoples.”

<http://www.newmachinestudios.com/productions/raventales>

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## Rebel Music Native America: Lesson Plan

From the website:

“Rebel Music: Native America is one episode of a six-part documentary film series that explores the lives of young people who are using their art and music to ignite social and political change around the world. Rebel Music: Native America highlights Native American musicians who are using their art to inspire and transform their communities and the places they travel. This powerful story from South Dakota, Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada, and New York City depicts the lives of four characters: Frank Waln, a Lakota hip-hop artist who is fighting to save the environment, Inez Jasper a Skowkale musician who is bringing awareness to missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada, and Nataanii Means and Mike Cliff (aka Witko), Oglala Sioux from Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota who are encouraging youth to find strength and inspiration through music amidst high suicide rates in their community. These musicians demand positive change for their communities, harnessing the power of music to elevate their voices and escalate awareness. They understand that the future of their communities is at risk and are fighting in hopes of a more promising existence..”

[http://legacy.wlu.ca/documents/59892/RebelED\\_NativeAmerica\\_LessonPlan.pdf](http://legacy.wlu.ca/documents/59892/RebelED_NativeAmerica_LessonPlan.pdf)

## Seven Sacred Teachings

From the website:

“The Seven Sacred Teachings is a message of traditional values and hope for the future. The Teachings are universal to most First Nation peoples. These Teachings are aboriginal communities from coast to coast. They are a link that ties First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities together.

David Bouchard is Canada’s most renowned and awarded Métis author. Dr. Joseph Martin has spent his life coming to understand the Sacred Teachings. Métis Kristy Cameron took a year out of her life to interpret the Teachings through her art. Swampfox has created seven flutes out of seven different woods, each in the key that is consistent with a particular Teaching. This master flute maker then dreamed seven songs to accompany this telling.”

<http://www.davidbouchard.com/mtw/sacred.htm>