

## **LESSON PLAN**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Develop an understanding of, and appreciation for, people and events in history
- Gather information from a website to draft a short biographical sketch outlining the life of Alex Decoteau
- Draw upon the artwork of George Littlechild to create an Aboriginal symbol or drawing that illuminates some aspect of Alex Decoteau's life
- Appreciate cultural diversity by focusing in on the contributions of an Aboriginal role model

### **MATERIALS**

- Computers to access Alex Decoteau website
- Information retrieval sheets to record specific aspects of his life
- *This Land is My Land* by George Littlechild
- Tempera paints, art paper

### **ANTICIPATORY SET**

Read three or four selections from George Littlechild's book to start a discussion around historical events and how they shape our lives today. Explore how Littlechild uses art to represent events in his own life.

### **INPUT**

Explain that narrative or story is one way we capture or represent an event in history. They will be responsible for writing about one aspect of Alex Decoteau's life, which celebrates his contributions to Alberta's history.

### **PROCEDURE**

Have children work in pairs to gather information from the website (each group can be responsible for a different aspect of Alex Decoteau's life).

Working together, children will write a short biographical sketch outlining his contributions as a role model in Alberta's history

Using the work of George Littlechild as inspiration, have each child draw and paint a symbol or image that they feel reflects some aspect of Alex Decoteau's life and/or his contributions to Alberta's history.

### **CLOSING**

Have children present their writing and artwork in a celebration circle and together discuss the important role Alex Decoteau played in shaping Alberta's history. Display the children's symbols and writing as a historical "glimpse" into the life of Alex Decoteau.

### **EVALUATION**

Did the children demonstrate interest in Alex Decoteau's life through their exploration of the website and their writing of a biographical account of his life? Did this project deepen their understanding of the importance of people and events in history?

Were the children able to successfully communicate their understandings through artwork and writing? Did the children gain any increasing awareness of the important role Aboriginal people played (and play) in Alberta's history?

### **MODIFICATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

Adult support would be beneficial during the information retrieval portion. An adult or another student could serve as a scribe in the written portion of this project.