Lesson Plan 1: Interdependence and Aboriginal Nations

Generalization
Aboriginal nations were interdependent upon one another for a variety of means

Rationale
It is imperative in developing a complete understanding of Aboriginal peoples history in Canada to understand how Aboriginal nations were sovereign prior to European contact. However, Aboriginal nations did rely on one another for trade alliances, sharing of technology, communication, and migration.

Objectives
Knowledge
- analyze the political systems of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Dene, Plains Indians, and Woodland Cree
- research the trade relationships between the above mentioned groups
- examine methods of transportation, communication, and migration

Skills
- develop a detailed chart based on research findings of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Dene, Plains Indians, and Woodland Cree
- illustrate differences in decision making and trading patterns
- develop search and retrieval skills

Attitude
- develop an appreciation for the sovereignty of Aboriginal peoples and the methods they used to communicate and form trade alliances
- participate in a positive manner in group discussion

Introductory Activity
Begin the class discussion by showing a map of Alberta as an overhead (as well as distributing a map) that highlights the regions/territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, Dene, Plains Indians, and Woodland Cree. The intent of this activity is for students to recognize the boundaries between the groups and identify who would have been most likely to be in contact whether it be positive or negative contact.
**Main Lesson**

Students will be broken up into 4 groups: Blackfoot Confederacy, Dene, Plains Indians, and Woodland Cree. In their groups students will research the political (decision making), economic (trade relationships and allies), the kind of technology being utilized (such as canoe or dog travois), communication forms (language, art, methods), and migration patterns. Students will be able to choose the method of delivering their information based on the following choices:

- Live presentation where the students act out the information in the form of a skit that includes diagrams and charts
- Written format (research paper) that includes diagrams, charts, and complete bibliography
- Artistic interpretation such as posters or a model that includes facts and data

Students should focus on recognizing that while each group was sovereign they were also interdependent on other Aboriginal groups.

However, each group will be responsible for developing a method for sharing their discoveries with their fellow classmates in a manner that will allow for comparing, contrasting, and for future studying purposes.

Students will also be responsible for working together in the groups setting and participating equally in the project. Students will be given an opportunity to grade one another based on their performance within the group and these marks will be incorporated into the final mark for each student. This will increase individual accountability within the group.