Grade 8 and Grade 9

Lesson 1: First Nations Time Line: Powerful Contributions in History

Generalization
Throughout history First Nations individuals have made powerful, important contributions to their communities and the First Nations people as a whole.

Rationale
Students will be given the opportunity to research and discover the various types of contributions First Nations individuals have made to their communities since the late 1880’s to present day. This is an excellent opportunity to empower students into making positive changes in their own lives, families, and communities.

Objectives

Knowledge
• Students will become familiar with at least one First Nations individual for each given time frame
• Students will recognize that positive contributions can be made in a variety of different ways
• Students will increase their understanding and familiarity with their cultural history
• Students will develop an appreciation for events and people in history
• Students will identify how they think the contributions made on their time line have effected First Nations people

Skills
• Students will develop research and comprehension skills
• Students will gather information from the Student Zone web-component and draft a short biographical story of multiple First Nations individuals
• Students will determine how to fit information on a time line

Attitudes
• Students will develop a sense of pride in accomplishments and contributions of their ancestors
• Students will strive to recognize that they too have the ability to make positive contributions to their families and communities
• Students will appreciate cultural diversity by focusing on the positive contributions made by various First Nations individuals
Teacher Information
There has been little mention of the successes and contributions of First Nations peoples to Canadian society. Thus, many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth are unaware of the contributions that many Aboriginal individuals have made throughout history. Mainstream media, texts and education curricula have all largely ignored the successes of many First Nations people. The intent of this lesson is to educate students on the variety of contributions that successful First Nations individuals have made from the late 1800’s to present day. Many of the stories of First Nations contributions may seem insignificant to the non-Aboriginal student when in fact the actions and contributions of these individuals have had tremendous impact on the lives of First Nations people. It is important and that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth are able to identify, using a time line template, the contributions of First Nations men and women. Students will also be responsible for researching or developing a personal perspective/theory on why they think the contributions made by those individuals on their time line have impacted First Nations people as a community or as a whole.

Introductory Activity
Students will make a personal time line of their own life history. They must include at least 5 important events on their time line as well as a minimum of 2 pictures.

The purpose of this activity is to give students an opportunity to create a time line, recognize significant events, and see the value of a time line in understanding history.

Main Lesson
Students will use the First Nations Contributions Student Zone biographies section as the starting point for this project. The objective is for students to develop a time line that includes information on ONE First Nations individual and the contribution they made for that given time frame. The time frames are as follows:

- 1880-1900
- 1900-1920
- 1920-1940
- 1940-1960
- 1960-1980
- 1980-2000
- 2000-present day

The time frames are rough guidelines as a individuals actions and contribution (s) may extend over time frames. The students will research and discover an individual, write a short biography on their life and contribution, as well as a paragraph on why or how that individuals actions/contribution have impacted First Nations people. The students may wish to include a photograph of the individuals where possible and should strive to make their time line of contributions interesting, colorful, and as accurate as possible. Students will need large poster board for this exercise.