Truth and Reconciliation in Your Classroom
How to get started and who can help

Learn about Indigenous peoples’ territories that you live on

Every classroom is on land that tells a story of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

- Approach your school district’s Indigenous resource consultant.
- Begin conversations with local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers at friendship centres and university Indigenous Studies departments.
- Feature contemporary Indigenous leaders in your lessons.

Support authentic learning

Indigenous knowledge touches on all subject areas that you can integrate into any classroom.

- Prioritize authors with authentic expertise in Indigenous learning.
- Connect Indigenous learning resources to students’ interests.
- Invite Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to lead classroom activities.

Relationship

Reconciliation is about co-learning and relationship-building.

Reciprocity

The best resources are human resources.

Responsibility

Teachers have a responsibility to guide all students toward reconciliation.

Know your limits

With over 50 First Nations in Canada plus distinct Métis and Inuit groups, you don’t have to be an expert on everyone.

- Attend community events and local professional development activities.
- Explore toolkits, online courses and podcasts to learn more about treaties and residential schools.

Respect

Education is a tool for reconciliation, but steer clear from appropriating culture.

- Ask questions about cultural protocols. Know what’s sacred.
- Teach about cultural genocide and residential schools gradually. Indigenous peoples are not victims first.
- Avoid activities that reduce Indigenous peoples to a caricature or stereotype.

Be humble about your knowledge of a history and culture that isn’t yours

Respect the sophistication of Indigenous knowledge, spirituality and wisdom.

NOTES

FOR MORE TIPS & RESOURCES: edcan.ca/inyourclassroom