

Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives into Environmental Education 7 Tips for Getting Started

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ACEE Alberta Council for
Environmental Education
ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ALBERTA

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Which topics are you most interested in?

Preparing meaningful land acknowledgements	38
Engaging Elders and Indigenous advisors for programming	52
Incorporating traditional knowledge into EE programs	72
Introducing age-appropriate Indigenous content into programming	56

This is all very
interesting but.....



This is all very
interesting but.....
*how do I get
started?*



INDIGENOUS SCIENCE, BUT I'M
NON-INDIGENOUS AND I'M AFRAID
TO MAKE MISTAKES. I DON'T
WANT TO GET INTO TROUBLE.

I don't know enough.

COLLEAGUES,
PARENTS AND/OR
PRINCIPAL AREN'T
SUPPORTIVE.

My class periods
are too short and
there's no time.

**I DON'T HAVE A
CONNECTION TO AN
INDIGENOUS
COMMUNITY.**

**This is a new way
of teaching for me.**

**I'M UNSURE IF TEACHERS
SHOULD INCLUDE
TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS
WAYS OF KNOWING IN
SCHOOL SCIENCE
CURRICULUM.**

I don't have
relevant materials
and resources for
teaching about
traditional science.

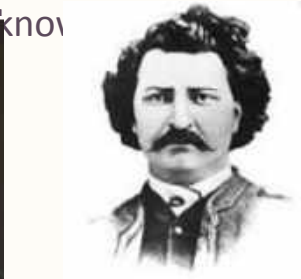


#1 Attitude

- Open mind & heart
- Curiosity
- Humility
- Respect

#2 Authentic

- Listen to authentic voices (books, videos, etc.)
- Explore authentic resources (stories, songs, etc.)
- Include local communities, Elders, knowledge keepers



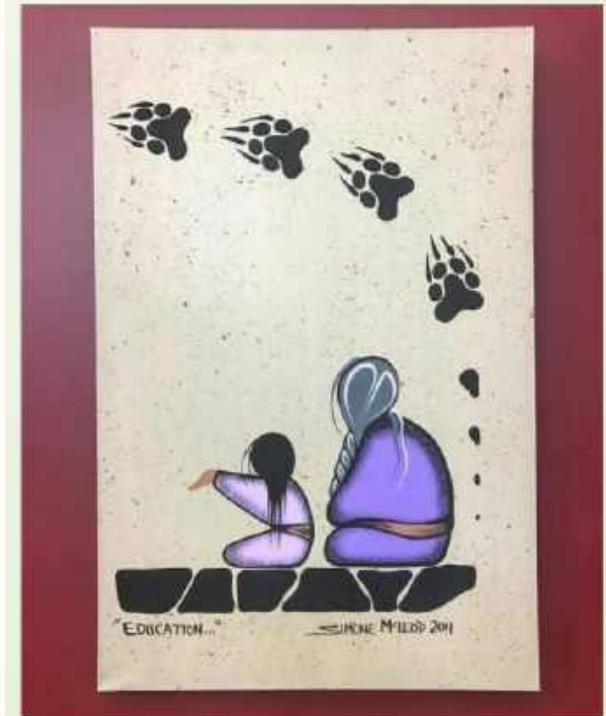
... know

#3 Stories

- Holistic learning (mind, body, heart, spirit)
- Stories also include music and dance

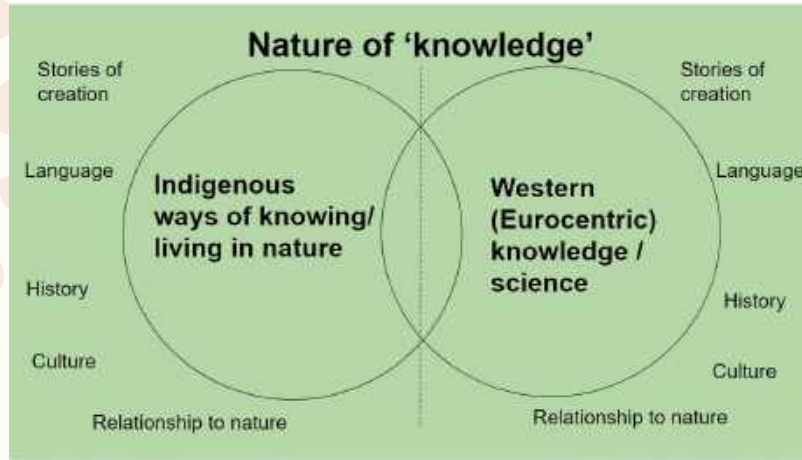
Indigenous Pedagogy

- Experiential
- Land-based
- Intergenerational
- Holistic (mind, heart, body, spirit)
- Story-based
- Relational
- Reflective



#4 Weave

Strive to weave an Indigenous perspective or presence into everything you do



#5 Together

- Partner up with a colleague
- Use the supports available through your institution or municipality (e.g. [Calgary Public Library](#))
- Build meaningful, authentic, and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous peoples
- Consider: *How is my work positively impacting the lives of Indigenous peoples?*





TREATY 7
INDIGENOUS
ALLY
TOOLKIT



[Link to toolkit](#)

BIG IDEA:

Small steps
can yield big
results



#6 Land-based

- What more-than-human relatives do I share the land with?
- What gifts does the land provide?
- What can I learn from my more-than-human relatives?

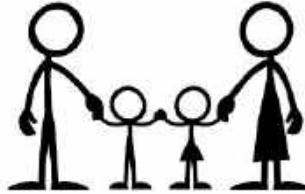
7 Relationship

Sustainability is all about our relationship with Mother Earth, and with each other.

“Relationships ARE the curriculum”

Dr. Nigaan Sinclair

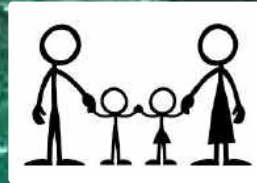
Eurocentric perspective



Relationship

Responsibility

Respect



Reciprocity

Kinship: It starts with creation



[Link to video](#)

Which tip(s) might you apply to your own practice?


1. Attitude	5. Together
2. Authentic	6. Land-based
3. Stories	7. Relationship
4. Weave	

Exploring Sustainability Through an Indigenous Lens - Getting Started with Your Students

Donna Ross – Calgary Regional
Consortium

Dr. Marie Tremblay - Alberta Council
for Environmental Education

[Recordings available](#) (elementary & secondary)



Some of my favourite resources

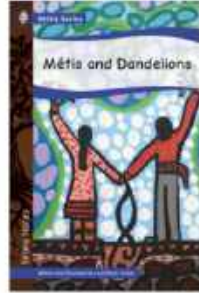
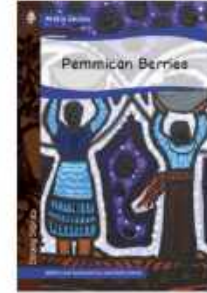
Stories

[Medicine Wheel Education](#)

[Strong Nations.com](#)

[Goodminds.com](#)

[Outdoor Learning Store - Indigenous
learning](#)



A hymn of love to the world.

—ELIZABETH GILBERT

BRAIDING
SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge,
and the Teachings of Plants

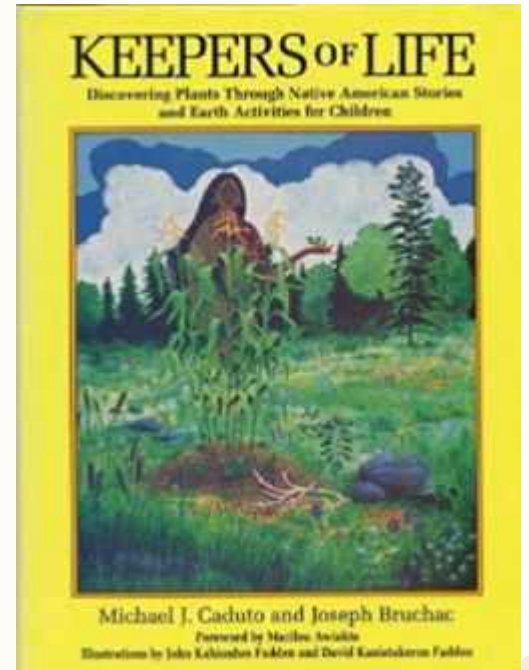
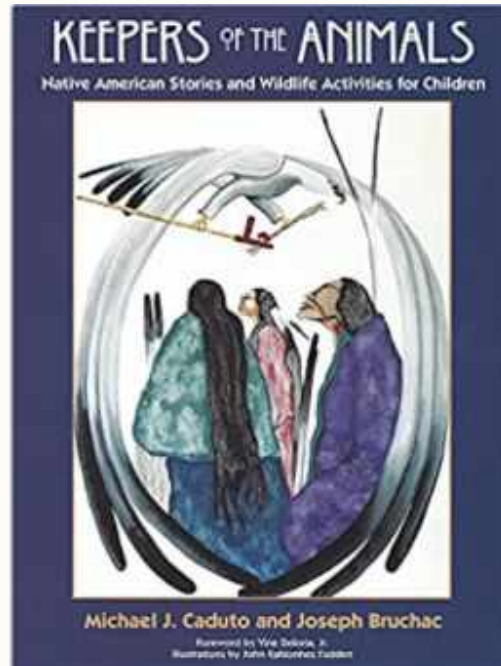
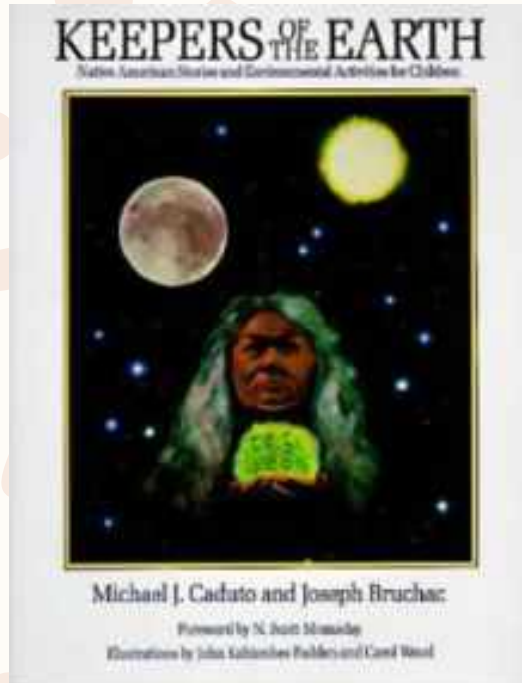
ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

- A 'must read'!
- Widely available in libraries, stores or downloadable pdf

[Free pdf](#)

[Free study guide](#)

Keepers of...





Indigenous Literature Kit: *Growing Our Collective Understanding of Truth and Reconciliation*

Kindergarten - Grade 12

Billie-Jo Grant, VJ Maloney Junior High School
Charlotte Kirchner, VJ Maloney Junior High School

Phyllis Kelly, JJ Nearing Elementary School
Nicole Wenger, JJ Nearing Elementary School

Rhonda Nixon, District Office, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Services
Yvonne Stang, District Office, Literacy Coordinator

A Collaborative Professional Learning Project

Empowering the Spirit

Literature for all grade levels K- 12

<https://empoweringthespirit.ca/>



The Universe is Our Holy Book

Dr. Jack Forbes

