

This learning guide is designed for use by Professional Learning Communities, learning coaches and teacher leaders or as a self-paced study.

Exploring Numeracy through Traditional Games

Empowering the Spirit

This guide is intended to facilitate conversation after viewing the video clip,



Exploring Numeracy through Traditional Games

General synopsis

Throughout history, First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples have used the context of games to teach their young the skills they would need to survive on the land. This video demonstrates how a Traditional Games Day creates a context for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to make meaningful connections to the uses of mathematics outside the classroom. The students also gain an appreciation for this traditional way of learning.

Key understandings

- Engaging students in authentic and meaningful learning experiences enhances their educational success.
- Traditional Games Day provides a real-life learning context that is meaningful to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.
- Numeracy is central to understanding that math is everywhere and in our daily life activities.
- Through meaningful learning contexts, students gain confidence in using mathematics to solve problems.
- Numeracy ensures the purposeful use of mathematics beyond the classroom, in contexts meaningful to students.
- Numeracy is a straightforward and appropriate use of everyday mathematics, relevant to the context.

Questions for reflection and discussion

- Dr. Jacqueline Ottman talks about the need to make learning more meaningful for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. She says if there is no connection, it makes it more difficult to engage and inspire the child. What does *'make learning meaningful'* mean to you?
- What is involved in planning meaningful learning experiences for students? What are the challenges?
- In the video a speaker states: "Numeracy requires purposeful use of mathematics beyond the mathematics classroom." How does this statement resonate with you?
- How would you define numeracy to a colleague?
- What are the elements that make up a numeracy-rich learning environment?
- Teacher, Joel Lavoie shares that when students are able to visualize and touch the things they are learning that their *'learning skyrockets'*. Share an example of a time your students' learning *'skyrocketed'*? Why did this happen?

(see next page for more questions)

Questions for discussion (continued)

- How does the context of Traditional Games provide authentic connections for students to use their skills to solve problems?
- After viewing this video, what new understanding do you have regarding numeracy?
- How will your new understandings influence the way in which you plan learning experiences for your students in the future?

For more information

Walking Together: FNMI Perspectives in Curriculum. This Alberta Education digital resource is designed to help teachers understand the holistic nature of First Nations, Métis and Inuit ways of knowing, to provide opportunity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples to share their perspectives on topics important to them, and to demonstrate First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives in teaching and learning experiences.

www.learnalberta.ca/content/aswt/

Our Words, Our Ways: Teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Learners. This Alberta Education resource provides information about First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures and perspectives, and sample strategies for meeting the needs and recognizing the gifts of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students.

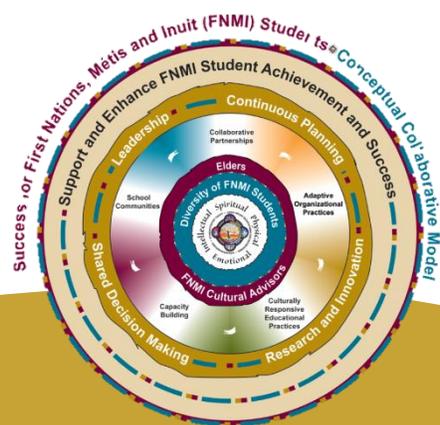
<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/cross/ourwordsourways.aspx>

FNMI Collaborative Framework: Building Relationships. A guide to strengthen collaborative processes between school authorities, parents, communities and other stakeholders.

<http://education.alberta.ca/admin/fnmi/collaborativeframework.aspx>

Moving Forward: Implementing FNMI Collaborative Frameworks. A professional development resource supporting success for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students as part of Alberta Education's Business Plan.

<https://education.alberta.ca/media/6664478/movingforwardbooklet.pdf>



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Alberta Regional Consortia

