Educational Programs



First Nations of Northern Vancouver Island (Grades K-12)

In this 2-hour program, students are introduced to the three linguistic/cultural First Nations groups of Northern Vancouver Island: the Kwakwaka'wakw, Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth. Students will learn about the similarities and differences between these Nations, including the artistic styles represented in their crests.

This popular program can be adapted for any age/grade level and is available through video conferencing for distance learners. Highlights of the program include an interactive tour of the First Nations Gallery and making their own paint from ochre and salmon eggs.

BC Curriculum Connections

Kindergarten Social Studies

- Ways in which individuals and families differ and are the same
- People, places, and events in the local community, and in local First Peoples communities

Grade 1 Social Studies

- Diverse cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives within the local and other communities
- Relationships between a community and its environment
- Key events and developments in the local community, and in local First Peoples communities
- Natural and human-made features of the local environment

Grade 2 Social Studies

- Diverse characteristics of communities and cultures in Canada, including at least one Canadian First Peoples community and culture
- How people's needs and wants are met in communities
- Relationships between people and the environment

Grade 3 Social Studies

- Cultural characteristics and ways of life of local First Peoples
- Aspects of life shared by and common to people and cultures
- Interconnections of cultural and technological innovations of local Indigenous peoples
- Governance and social organization in local Indigenous societies
- Oral history, traditional stories and artifacts as evidence about past First Peoples cultures
- Relationship between humans and their environment

Grade 4 Social Studies

- Early contact, trade, co-operation, and conflict between First Peoples and European peoples
- Demographic changes in pre-Confederation British Columbia in both First Peoples and non-First Peoples communities
- Economic and political factors that influenced the colonization of British Columbia
- The impact of colonization on First Peoples societies in British Columbia
- The history of the community and of local First Peoples communities
- Physiographic features and natural resources of Canada

Grade 5 Social Studies

- Past discriminatory government policies and actions, such as residential schools
- First People's land ownership and use

Grade 7 Social Studies

- Human responses to particular geographic challenges and opportunities, including climates, landforms, and natural resources
- Interactions and exchanges between past civilizations and cultures, including conflict, peace, trade, expansion, and migration

Grade 8 Social Studies

• Interactions and exchanges of resources, ideas, arts, and culture between and among different civilizations

Grade 12 B.C. First Peoples

- Traditional territories of the B.C. First Nations and relationships with the land
- Impact of historical exchanges of ideas, practices, and materials among local B.C. First Peoples and with non-indigenous peoples

Kindergarten to Grade 8 Arts Education

• Traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and arts-making processes