

# WALKING TOGETHER

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Perspectives in Curriculum

## Indigenous Pedagogy Evaluating Resources About Aboriginal Peoples

Excerpt from *Our Words, Our Ways*

Government of Alberta ■



## **EVALUATING RESOURCES ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**

Excerpt from *Our Words, Our Ways*

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### **EVALUATING RESOURCES ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES**

Students should be presented with accurate, objective information about Aboriginal cultures, contributions and experiences over time. Use the following types of sample questions when evaluating a potential resource to help decide whether a resource is appropriate or not.

#### **Aboriginal Resource Checklist**

1. Is the resource recognized by the Aboriginal community?

Yes	No	N/A	Has the resource been validated by Aboriginal groups and/or Elders?
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Yes	No	N/A	Has the resource been validated by Aboriginal authors and/or scholars?
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Yes	No	N/A	Is the author qualified to deal with Aboriginal content?
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Yes	No	N/A	Has the resource been approved for use in other settings?
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is the resource culturally authentic?

Yes	No	N/A	Is the Aboriginal worldview accurately portrayed and/or interpreted?
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Yes	No	N/A	Are Aboriginal values and beliefs accurately portrayed and/or interpreted?
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Yes	No	N/A	Are Aboriginal traditions and customs accurately portrayed and/or interpreted?
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Yes	No	N/A	Are cultural and societal roles accurately portrayed?
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**EVALUATING RESOURCES**  
**ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES cont.**  
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Yes	No	N/A	Is cultural diversity within the Aboriginal group recognized?
Yes	No	N/A	Is the way of life of Aboriginals in both the present and the past accurately portrayed?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Is the resource historically accurate?**

Yes	No	N/A	Are significant events of the past accurately portrayed?
Yes	No	N/A	Is the process surrounding decisions, documents (treaties, etc.) accurately portrayed?
Yes	No	N/A	Are Aboriginal contributions over time accurately portrayed?
Yes	No	N/A	Has past contact with other cultures been accurately portrayed?
Yes	No	N/A	Are historical events accurately linked with life today?
Yes	No	N/A	Are dates and time periods accurate?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Is the resource balanced and objective?**

Yes	No	N/A	Is the resource free of stereotypical descriptions that present any person, group or culture in a less than objective manner?
Yes	No	N/A	Does the resource refer to any person, group or culture in a solely positive or negative manner?
Yes	No	N/A	Is there evidence of any bias for or against a particular person, group or culture?
Yes	No	N/A	Are multiple points of view and/or interpretations included and given equal weight?

**EVALUATING RESOURCES**  
**ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES cont.**  
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Are the language and terminology accurate and respectful?

Yes    No    N/A    Are all people, groups and cultures referred to or named respectfully or in a way that will not cause offence?

Yes    No    N/A    Is the resource free of all derogatory terms for any culture or group?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are the graphics culturally accurate and/or respectful?

Yes    No    N/A    Are traditional structures, items of clothing and situations accurately portrayed?

Yes    No    N/A    Are people shown in attire that is appropriate for the situation portrayed?

Yes    No    N/A    Are the graphics free of sacred items that should not be displayed for all to see?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Is the resource based on information from recognized sources?

Yes    No    N/A    Is/are the author(s) recognized as (a) qualified, objective source(s) of information about all of the cultures, situations and/or events covered in the resource?

Yes    No    N/A    Is there evidence that other contributors to the resource were carefully and objectively chosen?

Yes    No    N/A    Are all contributors recognized as qualified, objective sources of topically relevant information?

**EVALUATING RESOURCES  
ABOUT ABORIGINAL PEOPLES cont.  
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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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After you have answered all the questions, look back at the items you have marked “No.” Do they raise some concerns or problems with the resource?

If so, discuss the resource with colleagues or people from your local Aboriginal community and decide whether all or parts of the resource can be used in class.

Be aware that it is acceptable to use a resource to illustrate a point of view or opinion, as long as you use another resource that illustrates an opposing or alternative point of view.