

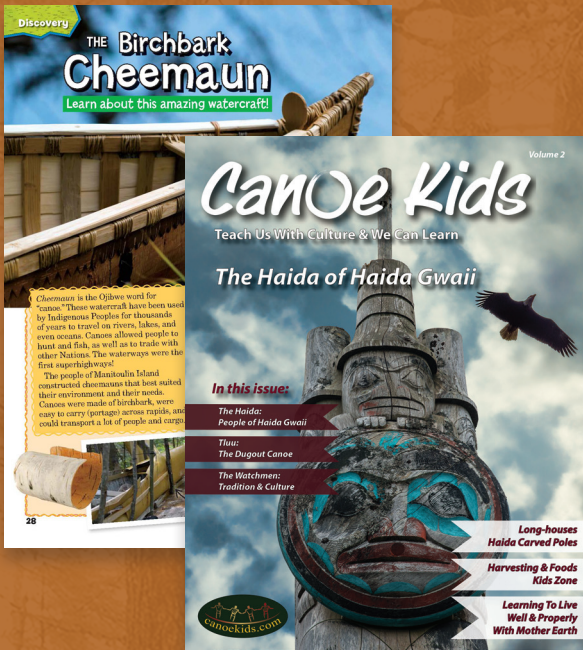


Indigenous-Created Cultural Resources for the Classroom

by
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4Canoes

A photograph of a forest with tall, moss-covered tree trunks and a dense, mossy forest floor. The image is split horizontally, with the top half showing the upper trunks and canopy, and the bottom half showing the forest floor covered in thick green moss and fallen branches. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the middle of the image.

With six sections of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 calls to action centering on education, there is a growing interest in classroom-focused resources on Indigenous culture and experience. In sharing the TRC report, Justice Murray Sinclair highlighted education as a way to help Indigenous and non-Indigenous people bridge the knowledge gap, especially in the non-Indigenous population. In response to the calls to action, we created 4Canoes and developed a variety of K-12 publications and tools to bring to life the Peoples, stories, cultures, and personalities of Indigenous communities across Canada and around the world.



What's Inside

Every volume of
4Canoes Magazine
and **4Canoes Kids**
includes:

Stories from community members

Photo-centric features

Language of the community
alongside English text

Historical and current information
and perspectives

Artist profiles

Traditional songs and stories

Place-based recipes

Kids' activities

Glossary of Indigenous terms

4Canoes.org

Authentic Indigenous Stories

In Indigenous cultures, canoes were the vehicle that brought all ages together and facilitated meaningful community discussions. The 4Canoes name represents four principles that inform all our work:

1. Cultural Rights
2. Human Rights
3. Environmental Rights
4. Equity

As an organization created and led by Indigenous knowledge keepers, sharing authentic experiences through our publications is a cornerstone of our content development philosophy. We strive to create materials that allow readers to feel like they are in the communities with us. Our 4Canoes Team embeds with the featured People communities for months during the creation of each edition, to keep the project rooted in the culture and the pedagogy of land-based instruction. Cultural advisors from the community are invited as guest editors, led by our co-founder and senior editor Kelly Brownbill, to ensure content accuracy.

Available at No Cost to All BC School Districts

The Ojibwe, the Haida of Haida Gwaii, the Mi'kmaq, the Yavapai, and the Dakelh are the first five volumes of a planned series of more than 25 publications. Available in print and digital form, 4Canoes editions and children's stories are accessible electronically to all BC school districts at no additional cost as part of their Focused Education Resources membership.

"We know educators are looking for authentic Indigenous classroom resources, said Maureen Ciarniello, Director of Education Services for Focused ED. "4Canoes has rich, relevant content and stunning images. The fact that it's Canadian-created is a bonus for our BC schools, and the addition of materials for younger students makes these resources relevant for K-12 students."

4Canoes is building on our original editions as a springboard to develop classroom-focused materials:

- Educator Guides for each volume
- Special Editions with OwlKids:
 - Print and digital guides to accompany each volume. Available now:
 - Edition 1: *The Ojibwe of Great Spirit Island*
 - Edition 2: *The Haida of Haida Gwaii*
 - Student activity book
 - Teacher guides and STEAM-based lesson plans
- Interactive, award-winning digital picture books, such as *Gifts for Dawnis* and *Whispers on the Water*, both awarded Best in Canada awards by the Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC)

Up Next: Children's Books, Documentaries & Lecture Series for Teachers

Several types of new educational content are currently in development. In addition to new children's books, we are about to start work on 4Canoes editions featuring The Haudenosaunee and the Maori of New Zealand. This fall, a small team that includes educators will travel to Sable Island, 300 km off the East Coast of Canada, to create a feature-length documentary and educator resource materials from the Mi'kmaq and STEAM perspective.

We heard from many K-12 educators who are eager to incorporate Indigenous content into classroom learning, but had concerns about confirming what is authentic, how to teach land-based education, and how to avoid appropriation. To help teachers share Indigenous content with confidence, 4Canoes has created a pre-recorded five-part mini-lecture series, **Exploring Land-Based Education**.

To learn more about 4Canoes, visit 4Canoes.org.



Access 4Canoes Resources

4Canoes' publications and educator supports are available at no additional cost to all BC school districts as part of their Focused Education Resources membership. These, and other digital resources, are easily accessible by teachers and students from school or home, through focusedresources.ca.

For assistance, contact
info@focusedresources.com

focusedresources.ca