

First Peoples Collaborative Class Project

MACC 6/7 Suncrest and Cap Hill – 2017

Greetings, Anthropologists!

There are four main Aboriginal territories in BC: Coastal, North-Eastern, Northern Interior, Southern Interior. Within these territories are various nations of First Peoples. You will be put into groups and assigned a nation with which you will need to do the following:

1. Give each person in the group of a role. One will be an elder, one a child, one a chief, and one an adult. For your role, you must provide a description of the responsibilities of that person and a description of “A Day in the Life...”. This can be done in a first-person journal-entry or third-person report, but is to be done individually, only one page long for each of the aspects of the submission. You will be provided with separate information regarding this task.

Due date: _____

2. You will have to research and construct your nation together. This needs to be done as a 2D representation using paper, an old blanket, or other materials of your choice, but whichever form your visual representation takes, it must be able to be folded and manipulated as needed.

Each nation will consist of a pair from Cap Hill and a pair from Suncrest. Each school pair will need to be responsible for constructing half the nation, so plan and communicate well amongst all members so each knows his or her job.

You will need to have an idea of how to join your two halves on the last day when we meet again. Ideas for this should be established at your first meeting, and then tweaked via electronic communication as you gather research.

Your representation model needs to fit the following criteria:

- a. Show two portions of time: past and present. The center of your model will show the culture of your nation from a historical pre-contact point of view; the outer border will show/provide information detailing a modern day representation of what is currently happening in this nation.
- b. Show the geography of the land and its resources.
- c. Show how resources were used by the nation.
- d. Show the spiritual beliefs of the nation.
- e. Show the traditions and culture of the nation.
- f. Show the system of governance of the nation.
- g. Show the language of the nation (firstvoices.com is a helpful resource to this end)

How you “show” each of the above criteria is up to your group; however, clarity in communication is a must – a viewer needs to be able to understand your work without an interpreter.

3. You will need to use a variety of sources for this activity and reference your sources (two individual lists, one from each MACC class group, is fine). You must use more than just the internet! There are many books and documentaries that can provide information, along with contacting Band Offices and Elders who can provide firsthand accounts.
4. We will provide you with time on the last day to meet with your group, fit your pieces together, and discuss your learning together as a nation.

This meeting will take place on June 6, so your visual representation must be finished before that date.

5. We will then do a whole group activity using your nation as a physical territory, **so make sure that it is large enough that all four of you can sit comfortably on it.**
6. After we all meet again together in June, you will be responsible for a written/drawn reflection upon returning back to class. Be prepared to write about your learning, the experience, the impact of before and after, and the “So what, what now” aspect for the future of the First Nations People.

ENJOY!

Tips

- Communication is key here. More and more jobs in the present day economy are done “remotely,” so this will be good practice in your electronic communication skills.
- On your first meeting, discuss how you will handle conflict or disagreement, if it arises.
- Be very clear about who is responsible for what.
- Your responsibility is to your group as well as to yourself.
- Google docs will be your friend.
- Share your resources – if you find a good book or web resource, share it with your group. If it is a resource that would be useful for other groups, let everyone know; don’t hog it.
- If you are setting up a time to e-chat, be very specific about the time – don’t just say “Let’s talk Tuesday night” – that leads to people sitting around waiting and growing frustrated.

- Remember that a successful group is one in which everyone feels valued and everyone feels good about her or his contribution; ask each other for help and notice when someone is doing something well.
- Think about how depth and complexity can apply here: how has your nation changed over time? What makes your nation different from other nations? What ethical issues are in play, both in the historical and contemporary contexts? What patterns and rules govern your nation, and how and when were/are those patterns and rules broken, and what were or would be the consequences? How has your nation been depicted in various forms of the arts? Dig deep, and don't be satisfied with easy answers. Ask yourselves "how" and "why" as you encounter new information.
- Find the balance between meeting your deadlines and not rushing through your work.
- When you meet in June with your whole group, be sure to take your Final Artist Moment with your visual representation: try to view your work objectively and see if there is anything you can add/change/edit to aid in clear communication of ideas and information, and to take your work from "good" to "masterpiece."
- Take pride in your work. You have a responsibility to the nation you are researching to do your best at representing them with cultural sensitivity, thoroughness, a high level of effort, and a good feeling within your group.

Territories and Nations

Territory	Nation	Cap. Hill	Students	Suncrest
Coastal	Kwakwaka'wakw			
	Coast Salish			
	Nisga'a			
Northern Interior	Inland Tlingit			
	Tahltan			
	Sekani			
Southern Interior	Okanagan			
	Secwepemc			
	Tsilhqot'in			
North-East	Kaska/Dene			
	Dunne-za			
	Dene-thah			