

Name:

Date:

## Researching Indigenous Contributions

Many of the foods that we eat, activities that we do, and tools that we use today can be traced to Indigenous contributions, inventions, and innovations.

In this project, you and a partner will research two Indigenous contributions to Canadian society. One will be a contribution that was used in the past, and the other will be a contribution from the last 50 years. You will then teach the rest of your class about these two contributions.

### **Instructions:**

#### **Step One:**

With your partner, come up with an invention or discovery from the past that you would like to research. You can use some of the things that you've seen in your studies of Indigenous innovations, or come up with something new. Check with your teacher to make sure that no other group has already started working on your topic.

#### **Step Two:**

Do some research. You can look in books, on the Internet, or ask Elders and community members. Check with your teacher to make sure that you're using the best sources for what you want to research.

**Remember!** Sometimes, European societies might have hidden the fact that something was developed or discovered by Indigenous peoples.

You might have to do a bit of digging to find these answers. Try to look for websites or books that use Indigenous stories and histories for information.

Answer the following questions:

- a) Which Nation(s) developed or discovered this item / activity?

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- b) Where and when did this become part of an Indigenous culture?

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Name:

Date:

c) Is this still being used / done today?

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d) If so, how has this item / activity changed over time?

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e) Any other interesting facts about the item / activity.

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**Step Three:**

Find or make a representation of the contribution that you researched. If possible, bring in the real thing (for example, if you're talking about maple syrup, try to bring some to class for your presentation).

**Step Four:**

With your partner, research a contribution made by an Indigenous person or Indigenous people in the past 50 years. Some ideas are:

- Smart Meter - Thomas David Petite
- Indigenous Art - Indian Group of Seven
- Politics - Richard Nerysoo
- Human Rights and Climate Change - Sheila Watt-Cloutier
- Other contribution of your choice

Check with your teacher to make sure that no other group has already started working on your topic.

Name:

Date:

**Step Five:**

Do some research. You can look in books, on the internet, or ask Elders and community members. Check with your teacher to make sure that you're using the best sources for what you want to research.

Answer the following questions:

a) What is the contribution?

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b) Who is the person? / Who are the people? (Give a short biography)

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c) How has the contribution changed Canadian and/or American society?

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d) Other interesting facts about the contribution and/or the person / people.

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Name:

Date:

**Step Six:**

Find or make a representation of the contribution that you researched.

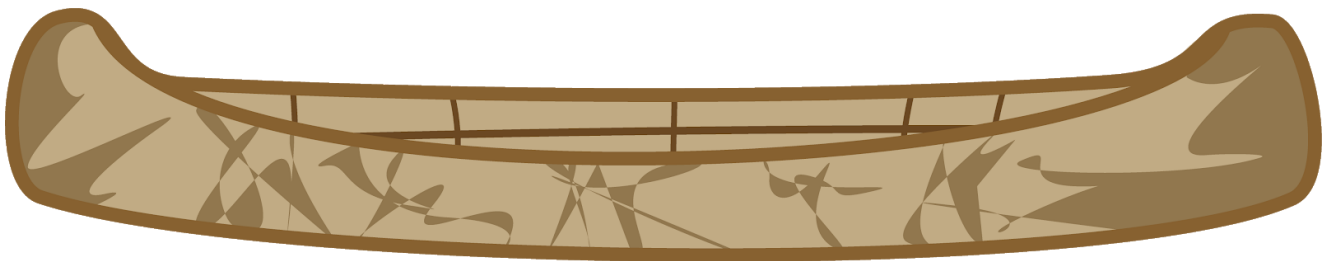
**Step Seven:**

Teach your classmates! Your teacher will tell you how you will be teaching your classmates about the contributions you researched. Some things to remember:

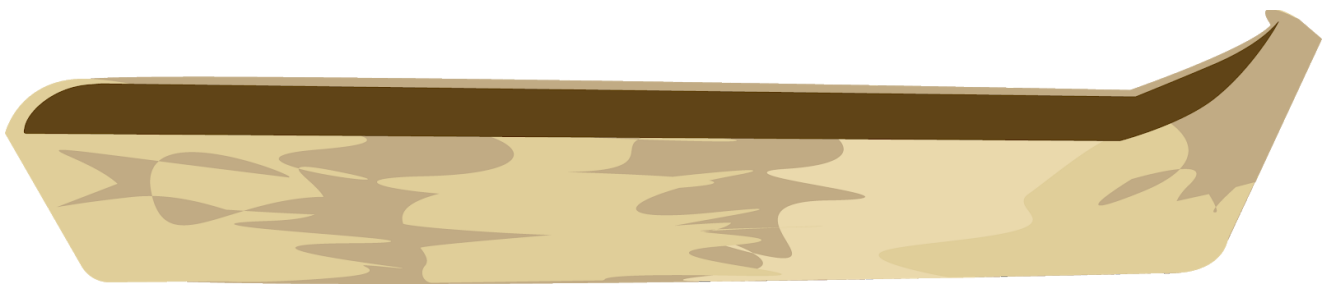
- Make sure you include all the information you find
- Show your class the representations of the contributions that you found or made

**Step Eight:**

After you have taught your classmates and have learned from them, take a piece of paper and write down three interesting things that you learned about Indigenous contributions to your life.



*A birch bark canoe*



*A dugout canoe*