Research Activity:
Indigenous Languages Here and Now

How much do you know about Indigenous languages in Canada? How about in your region or community?

In this activity, you will conduct research on Indigenous languages and teach others what you have learned.

Instructions:

- **Part 1:** Conduct research to find answers for questions about Indigenous languages in Canada. Write down your answers in your notebook or on a separate sheet of paper. Make sure that you use reliable sources, and write down where you got the information for each answer.

- **Part 2:** Continue your research to find answers for questions about Indigenous languages in your own region. Like in Part 1, write down your answers in your notebook or on a separate sheet of paper, and keep track of your reliable sources.

- **Part 3:** Use what you've learned in Parts 1 and 2 to create an infographic or fact-sheet to share with your classmates and/or community!

Part 1: Indigenous Languages in Canada

1) How many Indigenous languages are there in Canada?

2) How many Indigenous language speakers are there in Canada?

3) What are the top three most commonly spoken Indigenous languages in Canada? What are the top three most endangered Indigenous languages in Canada?

4) List three reasons why Indigenous people wish to protect and preserve their Indigenous languages.

5) How did the residential school system affect Indigenous languages in Canada?

6) What is the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada?

7) Visit the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's "Calls to Action" (**https://bit.ly/2Xi2FYA**). In your own words, rewrite Calls to Action #13-17.

8) Visit the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples **(https://bit.ly/2SfIrLV)**. In your own words, summarize Articles 13.1 and 13.2.

9) Your teacher will select a video clip for you and your class to watch. Listen carefully to the video, and list **three interesting points** made by the speaker.

10) Once you have completed questions 1-9, rewrite the statements below while filling in the blanks with your own thoughts and feelings:

    a.

      ○ Before completing this research, I did not know that…

      ○ Now that I know this, I feel…

    b.

      ○ I think that everyone should know that….

      ○ This is important to know, because…

Part 2: Indigenous Languages in My Region

1) Which Nation's or Nations' traditional territory or territories do you currently reside on?

2) List the Indigenous languages spoken in your province/territory.

3) Find an Indigenous language greeting that is used where you live, and write it down.

4) What is the traditional Indigenous name for the capital of your province/territory?

5) Choose three important places or landmarks in your province/territory. Write their traditional names and the European translation in a chart like this:

Traditional Name	European Name
e.g.: Tulit'a, NT	Fort Norman, NT
e.g.: Haida Gwaii, BC	Queen Charlotte Islands, BC

Part 3: Visual Representation

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund is an organization that honours the experiences of children like Chanie Wenjack with a mission to spread awareness about the impacts of residential schools, Indigenous languages, and other Indigenous issues in Canada. They do this by encouraging Canadians to "Do Something!" and work towards healthy relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canada.

Now that you've done your own research and gathered answers to your questions, this is your chance to teach people important information about Indigenous languages and to invite others into the conversation.

With the information that you've collected during your research, use the examples provided by your teacher as inspiration to design an **infographic** or **fact-sheet** of your own. This visual representation can be posted to share what you've learned throughout your classroom, school, and/or community.

Consider these questions as you plan your visual representation:

- Who is my audience?

- What information is most important, or most interesting, for them to know?

- How can I make sure the information is clear?

- How can I best organize this information?

- How can I make my visual representation grab the attention of my audience?