

# Truth and Reconciliation in Your Classroom

## How to get started and who can help

### Learn about Indigenous peoples' territories that you live on

*Every classroom is on land that tells a story of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.*

- Approach your school district's Indigenous resource consultant.
- Begin conversations with local Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers at friendship centres and university Indigenous Studies departments.
- Feature contemporary Indigenous leaders in your lessons.

### Support authentic learning

*Indigenous knowledge touches on all subject areas that you can integrate into any classroom.*

- Prioritize authors with authentic expertise in Indigenous learning.
- Connect Indigenous learning resources to students' interests.
- Invite Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers to lead classroom activities.



### Be humble about your knowledge of a history and culture that isn't yours

*Respect the sophistication of Indigenous knowledge, spirituality and wisdom.*

- Ask questions about cultural protocols. Know what's sacred.
- Teach about cultural genocide and residential schools gradually. Indigenous peoples are not victims first.
- Avoid activities that reduce Indigenous peoples to a caricature or stereotype.

### Know your limits

*With over 50 First Nations in Canada plus distinct Métis and Inuit groups, you don't have to be an expert on everyone.*

- Attend community events and local professional development activities.
- Explore toolkits, online courses and podcasts to learn more about treaties and residential schools.

#### NOTES

Freeman, K., McDonald, S. and Morcom, L. (2018). "Truth and Reconciliation in YOUR Classroom: How to get started and who can help." *Education Canada Magazine*. EdCan Network.  
Kirkness, V. J. and Barnhardt, R. (2001). "First Nations and Higher Education: The Four R's - Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility." *Knowledge Across Cultures: A Contribution to Dialogue Among Civilizations*. R. Hayoe and J. Pan. Hong Kong. Comparative Education Research Centre, The University of Hong Kong.

**FOR MORE TIPS & RESOURCES:**  
[edcan.ca/inyourclassroom](https://edcan.ca/inyourclassroom)