



Classroom Connections

Research Project: Languages and Music

"If landscape defines character and culture springs from a spirit of place, language is the interpretative lens that reveals the intersection of nature and the human heart. - *Wade Davis*

Part 1: Languages and Worldviews

In groups of 2 to 4 research which Indigenous languages are/were traditionally spoken in your region

Use the interactive map available at ltiv.ca/4/ as a starting point and keep notes below:

1. Create a map of your region showing which Indigenous languages were/are spoken in your area. (Save room on your map to add the elements suggested in step 5 below.)

2. Chose one local language and identify some basic words and phrases such as: hello, good-bye, thank you, "How are you?," "I'm fine," "Have a good day," and some local place, plant, or animal names.

3. With a partner, learn how you might introduce yourself in a conversation (example below):

My name is: _____

I am from: _____

I am _____ years old

4. Investigate groups working in your area to preserve and promote the use of one or more local Indigenous language. What are they doing?

5. On the map you created in step 1, add some of the key words you learned and highlight groups that are working to preserve and promote the language in your area.

Optional: As a class invite an Elder or knowledge keeper to explore the relationships between people, animals, and nature. After your discussion, create a mural at your school or design a language chart and put it on display. (See ltiv.ca/1/ for the protocol to follow when inviting an Elder or knowledge keeper to your school.)



Part 2: Contemporary Music

Explore contemporary Indigenous Music.

Research an Indigenous singer/band. Below you will find questions to help guide your research. When you are finished, tell your class a bit about the singer/band and play them your favourite song. See the playlists available at ltiv.ca/4/ to help get started.

1. What the name of your singer/band? Where do they come from?

2. What is your initial reaction to hearing their music?

3. What is the cultural context of their music & lyrics? What other information on the singer/band did you find?

4. Does your singer/band explore social justice, equity, cultural, or land-related issues in their music? If so, what are they?

4. In your opinion, what emotions does the music evoke? Why do you think it can help restore relationships or support social or ecological justice?

5. What is your overall opinion of their musical work? Did it change from your initial reaction? Why/why not?

6. What did you take away most from listening the work of your chosen singer/band?

Sharing your research

- Present something about your singer/band to your class along with a favourite song.
- As a class, create your own playlist of favourite Indigenous music and share this on social media.