



Classroom Connections

Research Project: Reflections on Colonization

“Colonialism is a relationship requiring violence to Indigenous Peoples and to the Earth, and we’re living it in Canada today.”- Aaron Mills

Part 1: Reflections on Colonization

Divide into smaller groups and discuss the following questions and statements based on the session’s reading.

1. What must it feel like (what does it feel like) to experience dispossession, dependency, and oppression?

2. How do you think colonialism continues to be marked by violence today?

3. How do you feel when you read that former Prime Minister Stephen Harper stated “Canada has no history of colonialism. We have all of the things that many people admire about the great powers but none of the things that threaten or bother them.”?





Part 2: Art as Resistance

Find ways in which people have creatively addressed the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, Trans and Two-Spirited People (MMIWGT2S). *For ideas see: itiv.ca/8/*

As you research, reflect on how art (poetry, painting, photography, short stories, graphic art, dance, music) has the potential to help with honouring victims and healing survivors.

Below you will find some questions to help guide your research:

1. What are some ways that art can bring communities together? What comes to mind when you hear the term “resistance”?

2. What is the name of the artist you found? What type of art are they practicing? What is their role in their community?

3. How are their symbols/words being used to help bring awareness, honour and healing?

4. What role can art play in ending the cycle of violence against MMIWGT2S?

Choose your own way to creatively address the issue of MMIWGT2S and present it to the class. If possible, display your art around your school and/or community.

