

LEARNING ACTIVITIES



Ancestral Lands/Traditional Territory: The ancestral and contemporary connections of First Nations to a geographical area; defined by kinship ties, occupation, seasonal travel routes, trade networks, management of resources, and cultural, spiritual, and linguistic connections to place.

Reserve: Land set aside by the federal government for the use and occupancy of a First Nation group; not to be confused with a First Nation's traditional territory. Many First Nations have continued seasonal hunting, gathering, and fishing as well as visiting ceremonial and sacred sites located outside reserves.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge: First Nations' knowledge built by generations of living with the land

and Creation; it includes a holistic knowledge of plants, animals, ecology, waters, and the environment.

Treaty Territory: Lands that have been defined through Treaty negotiations; in Manitoba, through the making of the Numbered Treaties.

Treaty: A solemn agreement made between two or more nations that create mutual obligations. The Numbered Treaties in Canada were made between First Nations and the Crown.

Treaty-making Site: Sites where Treaties were entered into; in Manitoba, most of the Numbered Treaties were made at or near Hudson Bay Company posts.



For centuries, maps have been used to tell stories. Maps can teach, engage, encourage reflection, place people into historical, contemporary, and geographical contexts, and maybe most importantly, maps can create awareness and effect change.

Engagement Activities

Activity 1: Treaty-making sites

- Locate and indicate Treaty-making sites in Manitoba: Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba House, Fort Ellice, Berens River, Norway House, etc.
- Create a historical marker for one of the sites that commemorates the Treaty that was made there.

Activity 2: My Treaty Story

- Using a variety of art media and the map as a canvas, tell your Treaty story.
- Be sure to locate your community and draw links to Treaty territories and ancestral lands.

Activity 3: Waterways: The Superhighways of the Past

- Locate and indicate Manitoba's major rivers and lakes: Lakes – E.g.: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Winnipegosis, Dauphin... Rivers – E.g.: Red, Assiniboine, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Nelson, Hayes, Churchill...
- Plan a trip to a Manitoba Treaty-making site using only waterways. How would you get there?

Activity 4: Traditional First Nation Placenames

- Locate and indicate several First Nations communities in Manitoba. Be sure to use their traditional name (E.g.: Opaskwayak, Nisichawayasihk, Keeseekoowenin, Kinosao Sipi...).
- Research the meaning of the placename. Bring the placename to life by adding colour, images, etc. to the map.

Activity 5: Traditional Territories and Ancestral Lands

- Locate and indicate First Nation traditional territories/ancestral lands in Manitoba.
- Add a variety of geographical features to the map: mountain, hill, plain/prairie, bog/marsh, river, valley, Canadian Shield, etc.

Activity 6: First Nations' Languages

- Populate the map with a number of First Nations language geographic terms and placenames.
- Create a map key to differentiate between First Nation languages.

Activity 7: Treaties and Reconciliation

- Collect a variety of stories from the news media, interviews you have conducted, etc. that highlight stories of reconciliation.
- Place these stories within a geographic context on the map.

Activity 8: First Nations Languages and Geographic Terms

- Decorate the map with a variety of First Nations language geographic terms.
- Write the terms on the map within the speakers' traditional territory.

Activity 9: Treaty Scavenger Hunt

- Locate and indicate several First Nation communities on the map.
- Create a scavenger hunt using geographic terms and Treaty clues to engage others in the map. (E.g.: *I am a First Nations community located in Treaty 4 Territory. I am located northeast of Birch River, along the western shores of Swan Lake. Who am I? [Answer: Wuskwi Sipihk First Nation]*)

Tell the story of the Manitoba Numbered Treaties using a map as a canvas!

How? Use the outline map to explore the Numbered Treaties in Manitoba. Add colour, images, quotes, questions, First Nation languages terms, photographs, art, papercraft, and so on.

Activity 10: Create a Territorial Acknowledgement Statement

- Write a territorial acknowledgement statement for your school, organization, community, etc.
- Be sure to include First Nations to whom the land belongs, Treaty territories, an action statement, and other pertinent information.
- Use the map to bring the territorial acknowledgement statement to life with images, colour, etc.

Activity 11: Draw a Mental Map

- On an outline map of Manitoba, draw a map of depicting Treaty areas from memory. Don't use any reference source, rely totally on your memory. Locate and indicate your community.
- Compare your mental map with the Treaty boundaries on the brochure map. How close were you? Share with a partner.

Activity 12: Treaty – 10 Questions

- Use the Treaty Information Cards and create a '20 Questions' style of game. Choose a fact about one of the Treaties and engage learners by having them ask 10 yes or no questions.
- Repeat.

Additional tools for engagement:

- Treaty Information Cards
- Internet search engine, texts, magazines, webpages, etc.
- Globe, maps, atlases
- Stories, traditional narratives
- Elders, Knowledge Keepers
- **Your creativity!**



First Nations' Geographical Terms

Aki • 'Earth, land soil'	Anishinaabe
Bimaajiwowaad • 'Living off the land to survive'	Anishinaabe
Manidoo-abi • 'Where the Creator sits/Manitoba'	Anishinaabe
Mikinaak-aki • 'Turtle Mountain'	Anishinaabe
Ninge'aki • 'Mother Earth'	Anishinaabe
Ojwing • 'Riding Mountain'	Anishinaabe
Waazhegami-zaaga'iganiig 'Clear Lake'	Anishinaabe
Wajiw • 'Hill, mountain'	Anishinaabe
Ina Maka • 'Mother Earth'	Dakota
Kehya Tanka • 'Turtle Mountain'	Dakota
Maka Sintomni Toketu • 'Environment'	Dakota
Maka Mahed Woyuhe • 'Natural Resources'	Dakota
Anju • 'Lichen'	Denesuline
Benataidtthi • 'Incoming Tide'	Denesuline
Ihbese • 'Location called on the coast'	Denesuline
Nigholtzi • 'On this Earth'	Denesuline
Askiy • 'Earth, land' Ininiwak	Nehethowuk/
Ka'esi Wahkotumahk Aski • 'Our Relations with the Land	Nehethowuk
Ininiwak Tawinamakewin • 'Granting Access to the Land and Sacred Elements'	Ininiwak

