

THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS

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STORIES & ORAL STORYTELLING

In **Indigenous** communities, stories are a way to pass knowledge on from generation to generation. Throughout history, Aboriginal societies in North America have relied on the oral transmission of stories, histories, lessons and other knowledge to maintain a historical record and sustain their cultures and identities. According to scholars Renée Hulan and Renate Eigenbrod, oral traditions are “the means by which knowledge is reproduced, preserved and conveyed from generation to generation. Oral traditions form the foundation of Aboriginal societies, connecting speaker and listener in communal experience and uniting past and present in memory.”

Western discourse has come to prioritize the written word as the dominant form of record keeping and until recently, Westerners have generally considered oral societies to be peoples without history. This could not be further from the truth. Oral societies record and document their histories in complex and sophisticated ways, including performative practices such as dancing and drumming. Although most oral societies, Aboriginal or otherwise, have now adopted the written word as a tool for documentation, expression and communication, many still depend on oral traditions and greatly value the oral transmission of knowledge as an intrinsic aspect of their cultures and societies.



The Seven Grandfather Teachings

The Seven Grandfather teachings are a set of Anishinaabe guiding principles passed down from generation to generation to guide the Anishinaabe in living a good life in peace and without conflict.

Guiding principles

Many Indigenous organizations and communities have adopted the Seven Grandfather Teachings as a moral stepping stone and cultural foundation. Communities have adapted the teachings to suit their community values. Despite where the teachings originated, they share the same concepts of abiding by moral respect for all living things.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are among the most widely shared Anishinaabe principles because they are relatable and encompass the kind of morals that humanity can aspire to live by. They offer ways to enrich one's life while existing in peace and harmony with all of creation.

Assignment

***REMINDER** - Begin your Seven Grandfather Teachings Project for this unit, focused on the Eagle (love) and the Buffalo (respect) once you complete these questions.

[Click here](#) to access the questions for the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

- Click “File”
 - Click “Make a Copy”
 - Change [Your Last Name] to your own last name. (Ex. Koskie - The Seven...)
 - Answer questions.
 - Click “Download” and “PDF Document”
 - Submit to Moodle when complete.
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Language & The Seven Grandfather Teachings

Language affects the way we think about the ourselves and the world.

Look at the linguistic breakdown of each Anishinaabemowin word, as it helps us understand the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

[Click here](#) to access!



[Click here](#) to watch Elder Dave Courchene discuss the Seven Grandfather Teachings

Click here to read the
story of the seven
grandfather teachings.

Elder Hazel: The Seven Grandfather Teachings



WISDOM

[Click here to access.](#)

Elder Hazel: The Seven Grandfather Teachings



LOVE

[Click here to access.](#)

Elder Hazel: The Seven Grandfather Teachings



RESPECT

[Click here to access.](#)

Elder Hazel: The Seven Grandfather Teachings



**GRANDFATHER
TEACHINGS**

COURAGE

with Elder
Hazel Dixon

COURAGE

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Elder Hazel: The Seven Grandfather Teachings



HONESTY

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HUMILITY

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TRUTH

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