

TRACES OF HISTORY: THE LEGACY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The legacy of residential schools affects every Canadian. For over 100 years, an estimated 150,000 Indigenous children were placed in residential schools which was a joint initiative between the federal government and Christian churches. Many students at these schools were subject to abuse. Students in this program will hear from residential school survivors to understand the human experience of the system and its intergenerational consequences.

As they tour Museum exhibitions, they will learn about the history of the schools from their inception to closure. They will participate in a collaborative art project that asks them to think critically about their relationship to land and what this means in working towards reconciliation.

MAIN MESSAGE

Residential schools assimilated Indigenous children by removing them from their lands, languages and cultures. Many students were subject to abuse and these traumatic experiences have intergenerational consequences. Residential school survivors are resilient in their ability to share their experiences of the past and advocate for their rights. Acknowledging Indigenous rights is integral in helping students understand the process of reconciliation.

GRADE LEVELS

ON GRADES 9 TO 12

QC SECONDARY 3 AND 4

Best curriculum link to grades 9 to 12 / secondary 3 and 4.

DURATION AND PROGRAM TIMES

- 120 minutes
- Start times: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

Be able to identify key events and people that led to the inception of residential schools, its implementation and closure. Understand the human experience of Indigenous children at the schools. Acknowledge Indigenous perspectives and their importance in achieving reconciliation.

THROUGH THIS PROGRAM, YOUR STUDENTS WILL:

- Learn key historical events of the residential school system by being presented a comprehensive timeline.
- Use visual thinking strategies to analyze survivor paintings.
- Listen to an oral history of a survivor and understand how the abuse suffered at the schools has intergenerational consequences.
- Take a guided tour and see how archival photos and artifacts tell the history of residential schools.
- Watch a video created by survivors describing what reconciliation means to them.
- Participate in an art activity encouraging students to reflect on the overall program.

DELIVERY APPROACH

The Canadian Museum of History strives to tell the stories of Canadians through collected objects and the information these objects can share. This school program uses archival photos, artifacts and survivor oral histories to teach about residential schools. This program was developed with survivor communities in Ottawa and British Columbia. The art activity was conceived by intergenerational survivor and artist Carey Newman.

PREPARING YOUR CLASS

This school program discusses explicit content about sexual and physical abuse. Before arriving at the Museum, inform students that if they feel uncomfortable during the visit they can leave the room or exhibition space. Floor-plans will be distributed to teachers at the beginning of the program.

Before your visit, explore:

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation:

<https://nctr.ca/map.php>

Look at the interactive map and find the residential school that was located closest to your school. Review the records of that school that are available.

<https://nctr.ca/archives-pages.php#statements>

- Listen to Survivor testimony and discuss as a group why these statements are important.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

To help reinforce the lessons your students have learned during their Museum program, you may want to consider some of these follow-up activities:

- Visit the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and visit the Teacher Readings page find additional sources:

<https://education.nctr.ca/link-to-page-2/>

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

To support Ontario and Quebec curricula, this program has been tailored to enhance your classroom content.

ON GRADE 10: CANADIAN HISTORY SINCE FIRST WORLD WAR

QC SECONDARY 4: HISTORY OF QUÉBEC AND CANADA

EVALUATION

To ensure that our programs remain helpful and relevant to your curriculum and to your students, we encourage all teachers to send in a post-program evaluation. Evaluation forms will be provided onsite, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide us with important feedback on your Museum experience.

RESERVATIONS

To make a reservation, please call 819-776-7014, email us at information@historymuseum.ca or use our [Online Planning Tool](#).