

Resources About Aboriginal Peoples

Students should be presented with accurate, objective information about Aboriginal cultures, contributions and experiences over time. Use the following types of sample questions when evaluating a potential resource to help decide whether a resource is appropriate or not

Aboriginal Resource Checklist

1. Is the resource recognized by the Aboriginal community?

Yes No N/A

Has the resource been validated by Aboriginal groups and/or Elders?

Yes No N/A

Has the resource been validated by Aboriginal authors and/or scholars?

Yes No N/A

Is the author qualified to deal with Aboriginal content?

Yes No N/A

Has the resource been approved for use in other settings?

2. Is the resource culturally authentic?

Yes No N/A

Is the Aboriginal worldview accurately portrayed and/or interpreted?

Yes No N/A

Are Aboriginal values and beliefs accurately portrayed and/or interpreted?

Yes No N/A

Are Aboriginal traditions and customs accurately portrayed and/or interpreted?

Yes No N/A

Are cultural and societal roles accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Is cultural diversity within the Aboriginal group recognized?

Yes No N/A

Is the way of life of Aboriginals in both the present and the past accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

3. Is the resource historically accurate?

Yes No N/A

Are significant events of the past accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Is the process surrounding decisions, documents (treaties, etc.) accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Are Aboriginal contributions over time accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Has past contact with other cultures been accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Are historical events accurately linked with life today?

Yes No N/A

Are dates and time periods accurate?

Yes No N/A

4. Is the resource balanced and objective?

Yes No N/A

Is the resource free of stereotypical descriptions that present any person, group or culture in a less than objective manner?

Yes No N/A

Does the resource refer to any person, group or culture in a solely positive or negative manner?

Yes No N/A

Is there evidence of any bias for or against a particular person, group or culture?

Yes No N/A

Are multiple points of view and/or interpretations included and given equal weight?

Yes No N/A

5. Are the language and terminology accurate and respectful?

Yes No N/A

Are all people, groups and cultures referred to or named respectfully or in a way that will not cause offence?

Yes No N/A

Is the resource free of all derogatory terms for any culture or group?

6. Are the graphics culturally accurate and/or respectful?

Yes No N/A

Are traditional structures, items of clothing and situations accurately portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Are people shown in attire that is appropriate for the situation portrayed?

Yes No N/A

Are the graphics free of sacred items that should not be displayed for all to see?

Comments:

7. Is the resource based on information from recognized sources?

Yes No N/A

Is/are the author(s) recognized as (a) qualified, objective source(s) of information about all of the cultures, situations and/or events covered in the resource?

Yes No N/A

Is there evidence that other contributors to the resource were carefully and objectively chosen?

Yes No N/A

Are all contributors recognized as qualified, objective sources of topically relevant information?

Yes No N/A

After you have answered all the questions, look back at the items you have marked “No.” Do they raise some concerns or problems with the resource?

If so, discuss the resource with colleagues or people from your local Aboriginal community and decide whether all or parts of the resource can be used in class.

Be aware that it is acceptable to use a resource to illustrate a point of view or opinion, as long as you use another resource that illustrates an opposing or alternative point of view.

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