

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE DICTIONARY LESSON PLAN



Lesson title:

Indigenous Language Dictionary

Objectives:

Students will:

- Use digital tools to publish writing.
- Gather information, utilizing sources from and about American Indians.
- Create a product using digital tools that communicates an idea to others.

Preparation:

This lesson is geared towards 1st and 2nd grades, and could take 1-2 weeks, depending on how much time you have available in your daily plans. Pacing will depend on your class composition and capacities.



If you are new to WriteReader, visit writereader.com to find out how to use the program and learn about its functions.

Pre-Writing Phase:



Introduce - Use a book such as Stolen Words by Melanie Florence to introduce the idea of preserving language and some Cree language words.

Anchor chart - Create an anchor chart with images to demonstrate English and indigenous words for common objects, such as this one.

Online dictionary - Show students an online dictionary for an indigenous language, such as the ones listed below. Show them how to search for a word in the dictionary and use the audio tools to listen to the word being pronounced.

Writing Phase:

If students are new to WriteReader, model the tool to them and show them how to log in, add a new book and edit pages.



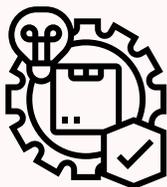
- Show students the indigenous language book template. A Crow and Cree version are created, but can be adapted for any language you choose.
- Demonstrate how to open the book in one tab, and open the online language dictionary in another tab.
- In the dictionary search tool, students will enter a word to find the same word in the other language. They should click the audio tool to hear how it is pronounced. Show students how to copy then paste the word into their WriteReader book.
- Show students how to utilize the Image Bank and search tools to add images on each page that match the words they are writing.
- Students can add additional pages as necessary with words of their choosing.

Indigenous Language Dictionaries:



- [Cheyenne language dictionary](#)
- [Cree language dictionary](#)
- [Crow language dictionary](#)
- [Lakota language dictionary](#) (Windows)
- [Lakota language dictionary](#) (Mac)
- [Nakoda language vocab builder app](#)

Extending the Learning:



Stories - Encourage students to move beyond the dictionary but creating additional books using indigenous words in their stories or informational writing.

Record their Voices - Students can use the microphone to record themselves reading their stories. This helps students practice reading fluency.

Celebrating Young Authors:

After students finish their books, it is important to celebrate their writing by creating opportunities for them to read their creations aloud and share their work.



Shared Reading - Provide opportunities for students to read aloud to the class or read one another's books using the Class Bookshelf.

Reading Rooms - Create a WriteReader Reading Room with all students' indigenous language books included. Share the link to the Reading Room with families or other classes to share and celebrate student writing.

Student Examples:

Thank you to Mrs. Roberts' 2nd graders at Beartooth Elementary for these examples of Crow language dictionaries:



Click the image above or [click here](#) to view the Reading Room and read their books.

Learning Outcomes & Assessment:

Use WriteReader scores and your own evaluations to assess students on the following objectives:



- RW.2.6 With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.
- RW.2.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question and include sources by and about American Indians.
- IEFA Essential Understanding 1: . There is great diversity among the twelve sovereign tribes of Montana in their languages, cultures, histories, and governments. Each tribe has a distinct and unique cultural heritage that contributes to modern Montana.
- TI.CC.2 The creative communicator content standards for second grade are that each student will use tools to create something that communicates an idea to others.