

Indigenous Art in Canada

A PBLA-Aligned Learning Module

For Learners

- Goal Setting Task
- Skill-Building Activities
- Skill-Using Tasks
- Reflection Task



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Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

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Development Team:

Writer: Emily Albertsen

Subject-Matter Expert: Suzanne Clavelle-Christensen

2026 TIES

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Getting Started



Art

artist
illustrator
diversity
belief
image
workshop

Types of Art

bead
paint
carve
quill
digital art
pottery
totem pole

Shapes

lines
pattern
circle
square
triangle

Materials

wood
stone
bone
antler
leather

Animals

raven
eagle
buffalo
turtle
whale
porcupine
bear

First Nations and Indigenous Peoples

Mi'kmaw
Cree
Algonquin
Inuit
Huron
Haida



artist



illustrator



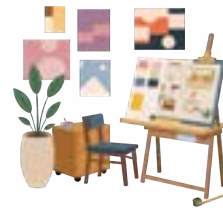
diversity



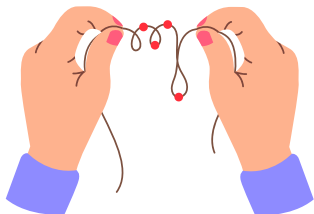
belief



image



workshop



bead



paint



carve



quill



digital art



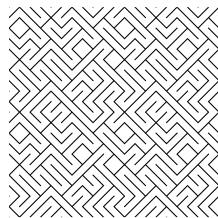
pottery



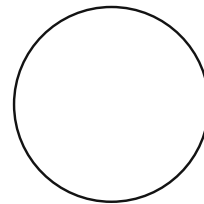
totem pole



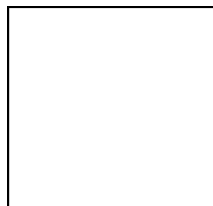
lines



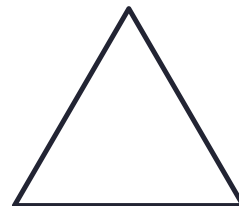
pattern



circle



square



triangle



wood



stone



bone



antler



leather



raven



eagle



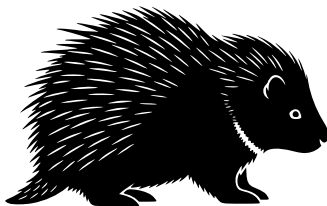
buffalo



turtle



whale



porcupine



bear

Goal Setting: Indigenous Art in Canada

Instructions

Answer the questions. What can you do now? Think about what you want to learn. Set some goals.

Check one:

I can use words about art.

☐ No ☐ With Help ☐ Yes

I can listen to an introduction.

☐ No ☐ With Help ☐ Yes

I can describe a work of art and express my opinion.

☐ No ☐ With Help ☐ Yes

I can read an article about Indigenous art.

☐ No ☐ With Help ☐ Yes

I can fill in a registration form for an art workshop.

☐ No ☐ With Help ☐ Yes



Goal Setting: Indigenous Art in Canada

What do you want to learn about? Choose two things from the list that are most important to you.

1. _____

2. _____

Is there anything else you want to learn in this module?

How will you practice your English during this module?



Listening Activities



Listening Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Listen to Language about Art

Instructions

Listen to the words. Circle what you hear.

1.

red



blue



purple



2.

yellow



black



blue



3.

blue and green



black and white



yellow and orange



4.

quills



beads



carving



5.

quills



beads

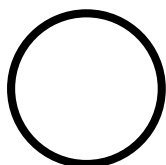


carving

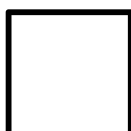


6.

circle



square



triangle



Listening Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Listen to Language about Art

7.

quills



beads



carving



8.

bear



raven



porcupine



9.

whale



eagle



turtle



10.

raven



bear



eagle



11.

whale



buffalo



porcupine



12.

raven



turtle



bear

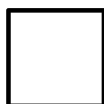


Listening Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

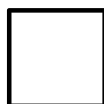
Match the Description to the Art

Instructions

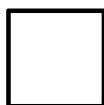
Listen to the descriptions. Write the number by the correct work of art.



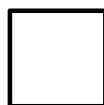
Artist: Jessica Jerome



Artist: Unknown; Brooklyn Museum



Artist: Manasie Akpaliapik



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Listening Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Listen to Descriptions of Paintings

Instructions

Listen to the descriptions. Write the number by the correct painting.



Artist: Jessica Jerome



Artist: Jessica Jerome



Artist: Jessica Jerome



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Instructions

Listen to the introductions. Circle the words you hear.

Listen to the
audio:



1. My name is Angela Sinclair. I am a **Mi'kmaw / Cree** artist. I **paint and quill / carve and bead**. I like to paint images of animals, such as bears, ravens, and eagles.
2. My name is Thomas Desroches. I am **Algonquin / Cree** First Nation. I am an Indigenous artist. I **carve / paint** wood and stone. I like to carve images of **animals / people**.
3. I am Jason Rogers. I am **Inuit / Mi'kmaw**. I live in **Nunavut / Yukon**, and I am an artist. I carve stone, and I paint. I like to **carve / paint** images from the stories my grandmother told me.
4. My name is Leah Salay. I am a **Cree / Mi'kmaw** artist. I live in Nova Scotia. I bead and quill. I like to make **patterns / pictures** with lots of colours.

Skill-Using Task

Listen to a Dialogue with an Artist

1 - Interacting with Others



Instructions

Listen to the dialogue. Answer the questions.

Listen to the
audio:



1. Who is Terry?
 - a. teacher
 - b. writer
 - c. artist
2. Who is talking to Terry?
 - a. Mary
 - b. Anna
 - c. Jane
3. What did he make?
 - a. carving
 - b. painting
 - c. beading
4. Is the painting colourful?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. What animal?
 - a. bear
 - b. eagle
 - c. raven
6. Why this animal?
 - a. It's from a story his grandfather told him.
 - b. It's an animal he saw in the forest.
 - c. It's his favourite animal.



Speaking Activities



Speaking Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Talk about Being Creative

Instructions

Answer the questions below. Use these answers to introduce yourself to the class.

1. Someone who is **creative** likes to make things. Are you creative?
2. Why or why not?
3. Do you do anything creative? Do you do anything on the list below? Do you do something else that is creative?
4. If yes, what do you do?

paint



sew



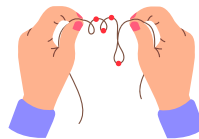
build



draw



bead



dance



sing



quill



write



carve



knit



tell stories



Speaking Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Introduce Your Partner

Instructions

Work with a partner. Ask your partner the questions below and listen to their answers. Introduce your partner to the class.

1. What is your name?
2. Where are you from?
3. What language(s) do you speak?
4. Do you like art?
5. Why or why not?
6. Do you do anything creative?
7. If yes, what do you do?

paint



sew



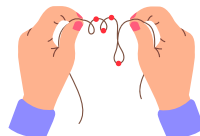
build



draw



bead



dance



sing



quill



write



carve



knit



tell stories



Instructions

Work with a partner. Describe the colours and shapes in the paintings. Use the words below.

Colours

red 

orange 

yellow 

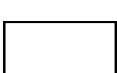
green 

blue 

purple 

black 

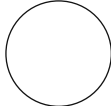
brown 

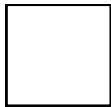
white 

dark 

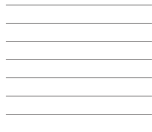
light 

Shapes

circle 

square 

triangle 

lines 

pattern 



Artist: Jessica Jerome



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Instructions

It is okay to have an opinion of art. Maybe you like it. Maybe you don't like it. Use the words and phrases below to say how you feel about the art.

I love it (strong opinion)	beautiful (strong opinion)	colours
I like it because it is/has...	interesting	pattern
I like the...	nice	animals
I am not sure if I like it.	powerful	person
I don't really like it because...	confusing	
I don't like the...	boring	
I hate it (strong opinion)	not very nice	
	ugly (strong opinion)	

It makes me feel...

happy

sad

angry

hopeful

peaceful

excited



Totem Pole, West Coast of Canada, Artist: Unknown



Stone carving, Artist: Manasie Akpaliapik



Painting, Artist: Jessica Jerome

Skill-Using Task

Describe Art to a Partner

4 - Sharing Information



Instructions

Choose one of the paintings below. Describe the painting to your partner. Remember to talk about the colours, shapes, and what is in the painting.

Listen to your partner describe the other painting. Complete the checklist for your partner.



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Skill-Using Task

Describe Art to a Partner

4 - Sharing Information



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Skill-Using Task

Describe Art to a Partner

4 - Sharing Information



My partner:

Talks about the colours in the painting.

Check one:

☐

No

☐

A little

☐

Yes

Talks about the shapes or lines in the painting.

☐

No

☐

A little

☐

Yes

Talks about what the painting is about.

☐

No

☐

A little

☐

Yes

Gives their opinion of the painting.

☐

No

☐

A little

☐

Yes

Says at least 4 sentences.

☐

No

☐

A little

☐

Yes



Reading Activities





A **topic** is a subject or a main idea. **Examples** are things that are part of that idea. Understanding topics and examples can help you understand how a text or a story is organized.

For example:

Topic: weather

Examples: sun, clouds, rain, snow

Topic: provinces in Canada

Examples: Alberta, British Columbia (BC), Ontario, Nova Scotia

Topic: animals

Examples: cats, dogs, rabbits, birds

Instructions

Work with a partner or in a small group. Write examples for each topic. Share your examples with another group.

1. Topic: Food

Examples: _____

2. Topic: Clothing

Examples: _____

3. Topic: Learners in My Class

Examples: _____

4. Topic: What I Do on the Weekend

Examples: _____

5. Topic: Countries in the World

Examples: _____

6. Types of Art

Examples: _____

7. Topic: _____ (Choose your own topic.)

Examples: _____



Reading Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Find Topics and Examples in Articles about Art

Instructions

Read the paragraphs below. For each paragraph, write the topic and the examples.

Paragraph 1

The Cree First Nations in central Canada have different kinds of traditional art that use things from the world around them. They paint on dried buffalo skin, which is called leather. They decorate their clothing with small beads. They also sew porcupine quills on to their clothing.



Artist: Unknown

Topic: _____

Examples: _____

Paragraph 2

Bill Reid was a famous Haida artist. He lived on the west coast of British Columbia. He carved wood, made jewellery, and made large sculptures out of metal. A picture of his work is on the Canadian \$20 bill.



Artist: Bill Reid; Photo: CBC

Topic: _____

Examples: _____

Reading Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Find Topics and Examples in Articles about Art

Paragraph 3

In Jessica Jerome's painting, *The Kiss*, she uses many different colours. She uses dark red in the background. She uses orange and yellow in the flowers and the clothing on one of the people. She uses bright green on the other person.

Topic: _____

Examples: _____



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Paragraph 4

Carving is a type of art. The artist uses a knife or other tools to create an image from different materials. They can carve a totem pole out of a tree. They can carve images in stone. They can carve images in bone. They can carve images out of antlers.

Topic: _____

Examples: _____



Totem poles; Artists: Unknown



Soapstone carving;
Artist: Unknown



soap stone



bone



antlers

Instructions

Read the article below. Match the words in **bold** to the correct pictures.

Traditional Indigenous Art and Modern Indigenous Art

In traditional Indigenous art, artists used the materials from the world around them. They made art that told stories and showed their beliefs. They often made art about people and animals that were important to them.

For example, the **buffalo**, was very important to the Cree First Nations in central Canada. They used the leather from the buffalo and painted pictures on it. The Huron First Nation, in Ontario, had clay. They used it to make **pottery**. And the Haida First Nation, in British Columbia, had large cedar trees. They carved these trees and made **totem poles**.

Today, Indigenous artists make all kinds of art. They make both traditional and modern art. They paint, **bead**, **quill**, and **carve**. They also make **digital art**. They use traditional materials, like **stone**, wood, **antler**, and **bone**. They also use modern materials, like plastic and glass.

Reading Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Understand Art Vocabulary























Instructions

Read the description of the artwork. Answer the questions.



Artist: Jessica Jerome

Description of *The Whales* by Jessica Jerome

This is a piece of digital art made by Mi'kmaw artist, Jessica Jerome. The artist made the picture using a computer or tablet. She drew on the screen using a special pen called a stylus. The picture is of three whales. They are swimming in the ocean. The background of the picture is dark blue with some green. The whales are white. Inside the whales, you can see other pictures, like two people in a boat, hearts, flowers, shells, and fish.

Reading Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Read a Description of Art

1. What is the name of the artist?

2. What kind of art is it?

3. Name three colours she uses.

4. What animals are in the picture?

5. What else can you see in the picture?

6. Answer this question with your own opinion. Do you like the picture? Why or why not?





Instructions

Read the article. Answer the questions.

Jessica Jerome

Jessica Jerome is a Mi'kmaw artist. She makes art. She beads and paints. She is also a graphic designer. She uses a computer to make designs for businesses and organizations. She is also an illustrator. She makes artwork for picture books.

Jessica began painting when she was young. She was going through a difficult time, and her father suggested she learn to paint. Painting helped her with her feelings. It helped her find peace. Now Jessica uses art to talk about mental health.

Jessica is two-spirited. That means she has a male and a female spirit inside her. She is married to a woman, and they have two sons. Jessica was born in Quebec. Now she lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



Skill-Using Task

Jessica Jerome: A Mi'kmaw Artist

4 - Comprehending Information



1. What kinds of art does Jessica do? Circle all the art she does.

- a. paint
- b. pottery
- c. quill
- d. bead

2. What is Jessica's job? Circle all her jobs.

- a. doctor
- b. artist
- c. lawyer
- d. graphic designer
- e. illustrator
- f. nurse

3. What does an illustrator do?

- a. Paint pictures and put them in an art gallery
- b. Design logos for businesses
- c. Make pictures to go inside books

4. Why did Jessica start painting?

- a. To find peace in a difficult time
- b. To make money
- c. To learn about her culture

5. Who suggested Jessica start painting?

- a. her mother
- b. her father
- c. her teacher
- d. her friend



Skill-Using Task

Jessica Jerome: A Mi'kmaw Artist

4 - Comprehending Information



6. What does mental health mean?
 - a. When your body is healthy
 - b. When your mind and feelings are healthy
 - c. When you go to school
 - d. When you eat healthy food
7. What does two-spirited mean?
 - a. It is when an Indigenous person has both a male and female spirit.
 - b. It is when a person is both European and Indigenous.
 - c. It is when a person is an artist and a teacher.
 - d. It is when a person is religious.
8. Where does Jessica live now?
 - a. Quebec
 - b. New Brunswick
 - c. Nova Scotia
 - d. Prince Edward Island



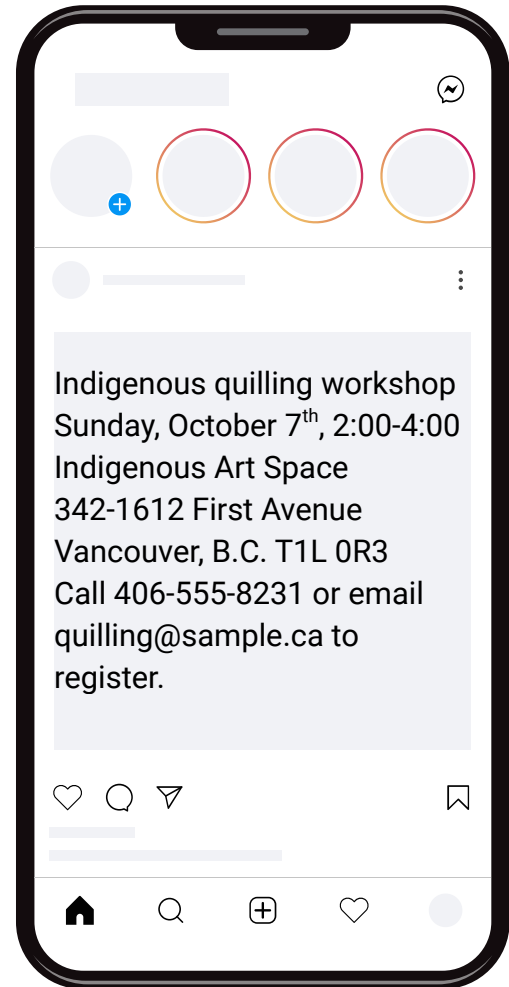
Writing Activities



Instructions

Copy the contact information into the chart.

Hi Thomas,
You asked me about the Indigenous paint workshop. It's on June 6th. That's a Tuesday evening at 6:00. It's at the Mumford Community Centre. The address is 96 Haver Street, Moncton, New Brunswick, N9T 2K5. You can call them to register at (904) 555-3250. You can also email them. The instructor's name is Jen Riley. Her email address is jenriley46@sample.ca. I hope you can come!
Cheers,
Marek



Instructions

Copy the contact information into the chart.

Learn to Bead

Workshop led by Ryan Linklater

Do you want to learn to bead?
Sign up for this 3-hour workshop.

Saturday, April 21

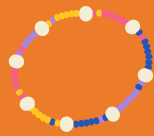
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Indigenous Cultural Centre

#2-427 Broadview Street

Brandon, Manitoba

R2B 9P3



Call or email to register:

(204) 555-9332

beadingwithryan@sample.ca

Hey Jack, that digital art workshop is going to be at Ryeland School, 4593 Watson Rd., Regina, SK, P2K 1H8. Call them at 351-555-8323. Their email is digitalart@sample.ca.

Type of Art	painting	digital art	beading	quilling
Name of Location				
Address				
Town/City				
Province				
Phone number				
Email address				

Instructions

The addresses and phone numbers have mistakes in the format. Copy them and correct the mistakes.

Cree Cultural Centre

426 main str.

Winnipeg, mb

R3k 1m3

2045551209

Mi'kmaw Culture and Arts Centre

327-1402 gottingen STREET

halifax, nova scotia

b2K, 6P3

902-555-4867

Haida Arts Centre

8712 Addison avenue.

Prince george bc

V1L 9m9

(9065)55-2148



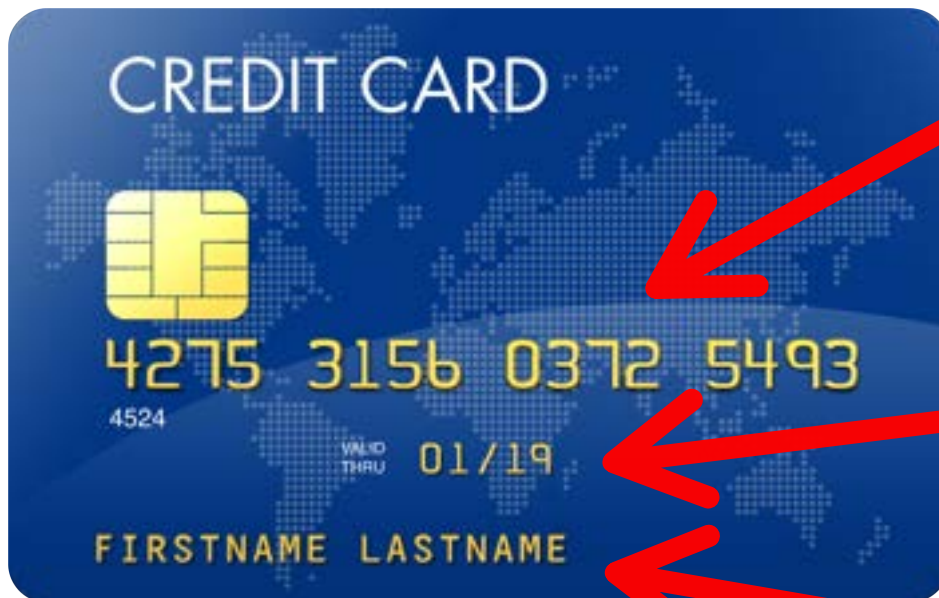


Never give **anyone** the PIN for your credit card!



When you pay, sometimes you use a **credit card**. When you pay with your credit card, you have to write:

- your name
- credit card number
- expiry date
- CVC or CVV number (three numbers on the back of the card)



Credit card number

Expiry date

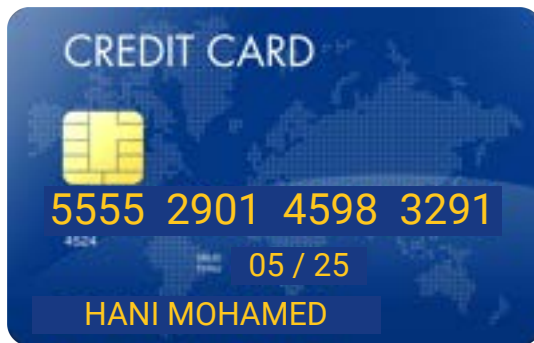
Name

Writing Skill-Building Activity CLB 3/4

Write Payment Information

Instructions

Copy the credit card information into the forms.

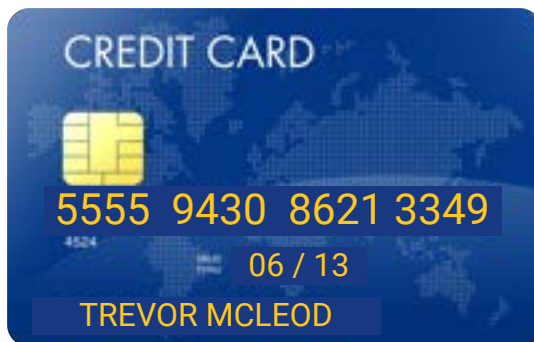


Name on Card:

Number:

Expiry Date:

CVC/CVV:



Name on Card:

Number:

Expiry Date:

CVC/CVV:



Instructions

What do you think of the art? Use the words and phrases to help you write about your opinion.

I love it (strong opinion)

I like it because it is/has...

I like the...

I am not sure if I like it.

I don't really like it because...

I don't like the...

I hate it (strong opinion)

beautiful (strong opinion)

interesting

nice

powerful

confusing

boring

not very nice

ugly (strong opinion)

colours

pattern

animals

person

It makes me feel...

happy

sad

angry

hopeful

peaceful

excited



Artist: Jessica Jerome

My Opinion about the Painting

**Instructions**

Fill in the form. Use your own information.

Indigenous Art Workshops Registration Form

Please print neatly

First Name:		Last Name:	
Date of Birth:			
Address Number:		Street:	
Town/City:		Province:	
Postal Code:			
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:	
Email Address:			

Which class would you like to register for? Circle one:

- Drum making
- Quilling
- Beading
- Painting

Reflection Tasks



Reflection Task: Indigenous Art in Canada

Instructions

Think about what you learned in this module. What can you do now? Answer the questions.

Check one:

I can use words about art.

☐

No

☐

With Help

☐

Yes

I can listen to an introduction.

☐

No

☐

With Help

☐

Yes

I can describe a work of art and express my opinion.

☐

No

☐

With Help

☐

Yes

I can read an article about Indigenous art.

☐

No

☐

With Help

☐

Yes

I can fill in a registration form for an art workshop.

☐

No

☐

With Help

☐

Yes

What is the most important thing you learned in this module?

