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**Name of School:** Silverwood Heights

**School Division or First Nation:** Saskatoon Public School Division

**Address of School:** 403 Silverwood Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 6G1

**SUBJECT AREA:** Social Studies / Language Arts    **TOPIC:** First Nations Families

**GRADE LEVEL:** One

**LINKS TO SASKATCHEWAN LEARNING UNIT:**

**Social Studies** – Families Identity/Interdependence

**Concepts**

- a. Similarities /Differences
- b. Basic Needs

**Language Arts**

**Concept** - Reading Comprehension

- a. Compare Texts using a Venn diagram
- b. Use pictures and text to make inferences

**Concept** – Listening/Viewing Skills

- a. Listen for a purpose
- b. Find relevant information in pictures

**ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CONCEPT:** First Nations peoples had a deep spiritual connection to nature long ago. Today, some of these connections still remain an important part of First Nations culture.

**UNIT OBJECTIVES:**

**Mental:** The students will gain an understanding about First Nations families and the connection they have with the natural world.

**Emotional:** Students will reconfirm that families, no matter what culture, are built on love and commitment.

**Physical:** Students will use their listening skills to find out the similarities and differences in the First Nations families in the stories and their own families.

**Spiritual:** The students will come to appreciate the value and significance First Nations people place on nature and animals.

**Materials Required:**

- Caribou Song and Dragonfly Kites by Tomson Highway
- Thomson Highway's Biography  
<http://www.playwrightsworkshop.org/tomsonbio.html>
- A Venn diagram template can be found at  
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/venn.pdf>
- Map of Canada – For an Interactive Map go to:  
[http://canada.worldweb.com/Maps/mapviewer.html?Tours&Activities\\_name=Snow%20Train%20to%20Jasper&map\\_id=13491&adsoff=1](http://canada.worldweb.com/Maps/mapviewer.html?Tours&Activities_name=Snow%20Train%20to%20Jasper&map_id=13491&adsoff=1)
- Chart Paper

**Activity #1:** Caribou Song - The students will gain knowledge about how First Nations families meet their basic needs.

**1. Set Purpose for Reading**

- Create a web depicting basic needs for our families (The list will include: food, shelter, clothing, love, water, fun, etc...)
- Use a map to show the location of the setting of the book (Northern Manitoba)
- Introduce the author, sharing information about his past and the autobiographical nature of his stories
- Ask children to listen to the story to see how the family met their basic needs

**2. Read the story Caribou Song to the students.****3. Use our web to guide discussion of how Joe and Cody's family met their basic needs. Children will need to infer some of this information from the pictures and text.**

- Create a T chart to compare how our families and Joe and Cody's families meet their basic needs (included).
- Stress that we all have the same basic needs; it is the way we meet them that differs.

## Comparing Families and Their Basic Needs

Cody and Joe's Family	Our Families

**Activity #2:** The students will gain awareness and an understanding of the spiritual connection First Nations people had with the natural world.

1. Reread Caribou Song

2. Set Purpose For Listening

- Talk about the spiritual connection and respect First Nations people have for the natural world. Go to websites for the Cree, Sauteaux and Dene beliefs and values as they relate to the environment:

<http://www.sicc.sk.ca/heritage/ethnography/cree/beliefs/worldview.html>

<http://www.sicc.sk.ca/heritage/ethnography/sauteaux/beliefs/worldview.html>

<http://library.usask.ca/native/directory/english/saskindian.html>

[http://www.rcmp.ca/ccaps/spirit\\_e.htm](http://www.rcmp.ca/ccaps/spirit_e.htm)

<http://www.sicc.sk.ca/heritage/ethnography/dene/beliefs/worldview.html>

- Ask children to listen to the story to see if there are any words that show that Joe and Cody share these beliefs
- Tell children we will read a second Joe and Cody story today and they will be asked to think about how the stories are the same and different.

3. Reread Caribou Song again

- Ask children for proof that Joe and Cody respect and feel connected to “Mother Earth” They should find the part in the story where the caribou are rushing by and they raise their arms and embrace the spirit. Reread this part and ask which words indicate how Joe and Cody feel? Discuss why Joe and Cody feel this connection.
- Focus on the close relationship with nature that Joe and his family needed to have to meet their basic needs. We connected this to the respect and awe that Mother Earth’s gifts should instill in all of us.

**Activity #3:** The students will learn more about the connection First Nations people had to Mother Earth.

1. Dragonfly Kites - Set Purpose for Listening

- Tell children that they need to listen to Dragonfly Kites for a number of purposes.
- To add to our basic need web/T Chart
- To find more proof for their love and connection to the Earth
- To find similarities and differences between Dragonfly Kites and Caribou Song

2. Read Dragonfly Kites to the students.

- Add information to our T chart using the web to guide us.
- This story really adds to what Joe and Cody did for fun – a great comparison for modern day children.
- Discuss the respectful way the boys treated the dragonflies – did they hurt them? What words or actions from the story show that they cared about the earth? What could we learn from Joe and Cody’s respect for nature?
- As a class, create a Venn diagram comparing the two stories. Go to <http://www.2learn.ca/construct/graphicorg/venn/vennindex.html> for a Venn diagram.
- Children should see the similarities in characters, lifestyle, location (the first page of the book shows the same location), spiritual connection to the earth, music, etc. Differences should include activities the boys take part in, the season, and food eaten. The only limit is the children’s imagination.

**Activity #4:** The students will compare the two stories Dragonfly Kites and Caribou Song to look for similarities between the families in the stories and their own families.

1. Set Purposes for Listening

- Children will listen to Dragonfly Kites and Caribou Song to make comparisons between their own families and Joe and Cody's family.

2. Reread the stories to the students

- Review the web and T Chart – add any new information that may have been missed.
- Ask children to create a Venn diagram with a partner showing the similarities and differences between their families and Joe and Cody's family. Go to <http://www.abcteach.com/GraphicOrganizers/Venn.htm> for a Venn diagram.
- Encourage them to include the information from the web and T chart.
- Share the diagrams with the class and focus the discussion on how our similarities are greater than our differences.