

Gchi- Nbi

'Sacred Water'



This activity center is part of the **Water Attitudes** theme.

What's the purpose of this activity?

At this activity center students will listen to Lynzii Taibossigai (Anishnaabe-kwe from M'Chigeeng First Nation and Manitoulin Island) and her colleagues from TRACKS Youth Program discuss the importance of water and the natural environment to traditional Anishinabek people. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on humans (past & present) relationship with and reliance on water for food, transportation, developing cultural beliefs, and everyday life.

Participants will be encouraged to interact with water and discuss their own relationship with water. Students will also participate in a traditional water ceremony.

Key messages:

- First Nations people have a traditional relationship with the environment that differs from many other European based perceptions.
- Water is essential for all life, and we each have a relationship with water.

What will I be doing?

- Your role is to act as "crowd control". Ensure that the waiting group is not talking loudly and distracting the participants.

Materials

- 2-3 sturdy tables
- 2 Chairs
- Blue foamy paper raindrop cut-outs
- Permanent markers
- Medium sized rubbermaids (5)
- Cups, sponges, spoons, rags (to play with water)
- Cups for water ceremony

Additional Background Information:

The Anishinabek people existed in the Peterborough area long before Europeans settled in the area. Traditionally, the Anishinabek have had a special relationship with the environment and today some still do. Lynzii's presentation provides insight into these relationships so listen carefully as she talks about the importance of water to her and her culture.

You will be invited to explore your own relationship with water, and think about what you can do to make that relationship stronger.

Everyone will then be invited to participate in a water ceremony.

Clean Up Procedures:

Make sure all items for the presentation are organized for the next day. Leave the site as you found it for the next