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# ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

## SECONDARY LEVEL

### Comparing Aboriginal Activity

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- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is for students to complete an in depth study of a specific Canadian Aboriginal community.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion, group work, group presentations.
- **Differentiated instruction:**
  - Students create a written report or a visual display about their selected Aboriginal group instead of orally presenting their findings to the class
- **Course Connection(s):** Canadian and World Studies, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, Native Studies and Social Sciences and Humanities.
- **Estimated time:** 1 hour
- **Steps:**
  1. Explain to students that they will be participating in a small group research project where they will research one of the following topics:
    - First Nations
    - Métis
    - Inuit
  2. Divide the class into six small groups (so that two groups are assigned to each topic) and assign each group to one of the above topics.
  3. Once they have selected their Aboriginal group, students must collect information around the following topics:
    - Any significant historic background information and events that affected this population.
    - Geographical distribution.
    - List of communities or bands within the group (e.g.: the First Nations Mi'kmaq from the Easter Woodlands).
    - The language(s) spoken by the group.
    - Economic basis.
    - Any means of survival adopted by the community (e.g.: food preservation etc.).
    - Traditional customs carried out by the community along with traditional dress, food, dance, myths and artistic expression.
    - The status of the group today. Listing any trouble the community is facing along with any successes they have experienced.
    - How the community has grown and changed throughout history.
  4. Once research is complete, ask each group to summarize their findings for the class. Encourage other members of the class to take notes during these presentations.
  5. When presentations are complete, ask each group to create a series of five questions on their research findings that were presented to the class.
  6. Collect these questions and compile them together, creating a quiz to be completed independently by the students in the next class.



Take action to raise awareness about Aboriginal Education. Participate in Free The Children and Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative's campaign, Local Spotlight: Aboriginal Education. Check out [www.weday.com/takeaction](http://www.weday.com/takeaction) to get involved.