

FIRST NATIONS THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

Thirteen 20-minute programs about current issues, cultural identity, and relations between First Nations and Canada, compiled on four videocassettes.

The accompanying Teacher's Guide provides context, background on the issues, discussion questions and activities. For more information, please see inside video jacket.

VIDEO **2** Ages 11 to Adult

These programs introduce more complex stories about Aboriginal title to the land, alternative justice, and relations between First Nations and Canada.

- 2/1 Hunters and Bombers*** (22 mins) The Innu of Labrador fight NATO to end training flights by bombers that disrupt their hunting camps.
- 2/2 Magic in the Sky*** (20 mins) The Inuit resist the violence and materialism of southern "TV culture" by making their own programs.
- 2/3 Voyage of Rediscovery*** (25 mins) An angry young man is tried for assault. On a suggestion from his family, he is banished to an island to discover himself, a traditional Heiltsuk response to offenders.

**These programs have been revised and shortened from the original productions for classroom use.*

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A production of Face to Face Media and the National Film Board

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Closed captioned for the deaf and hard of hearing. A decoder is required.

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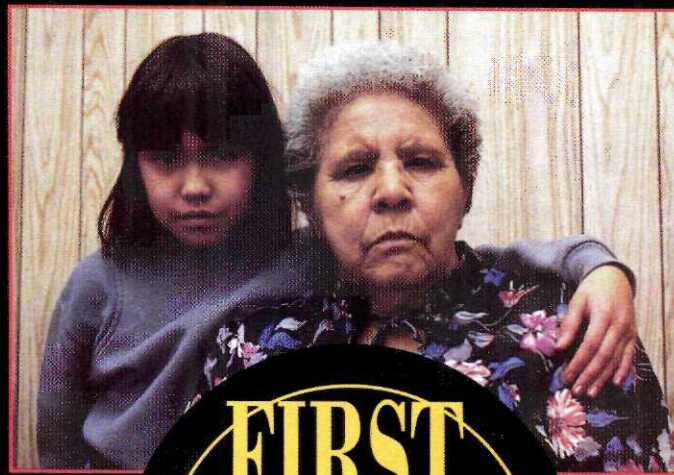


FIRST NATIONS : THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

VIDEO

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FIRST NATIONS THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

Thirteen 20-minute programs about current issues, cultural identity, and relations between First Nations and Canada

VIDEO

AGES 11 **2** TO ADULT

Hunters and Bombers

Magic in the Sky

Voyage of Rediscovery

FIRST NATIONS THE CIRCLE UNBROKEN

This collection of thirteen 20-minute programs introduces students, aged 9 to adult, to a variety of First Nations perspectives on history, culture, spirituality, education, justice, the environment, racism, colonialism, and Aboriginal title to the land. We have chosen the best available documentaries, then revised and shortened them for classroom use.

These programs provide students with rich and complex images of the contemporary reality of the First Nations, their sense of identity, and their relations with Canada.

The accompanying Teacher's Guide provides context, background on the issues, discussion questions and activities.

The thirteen programs are compiled on four videocassettes. Other programs in the series are:

VIDEO 1 Ages 9 to Adult

In these programs, people tell stories about what is important to them and to their families.

- 1/1 **Cree Hunters, Quebec Dams** (23 mins) In 1974, a Cree family winters on the land. Twenty years later, the Cree are still fighting the James Bay hydro projects.
- 1/2 **Standing Alone*** (20 mins) Pete Standing Alone, at age 50, reflects on his life and the life of the Blood, members of the Blackfoot Confederacy.
- 1/3 **The Last Moosskin Boat*** (17 mins) A Shotah Dene family builds an extraordinary thirty-foot-long boat and travels downriver to Fort Norman.
- 1/4 **KWA'NU'TE*** (19 mins) Three Miqmaq and Maliseet artists work with wood, pencil, paper, stone and quills.

VIDEO 3 Ages 11 to Adult

These programs introduce more complex stories about Aboriginal title to the land, alternative justice, and relations between First Nations and Canada.

- 3/1 **Potlatch*** (22 mins) The Canadian government suppressed the Potlatch. The Kwag'ulh people resisted. Today the Potlatch is part of self-government.
- 3/2 **Time Immemorial*** (22 mins) The Nisga'a have been resisting the seizure of their lands in the Nass Valley for 130 years. In 1972 they won a Supreme Court decision confirming their unextinguished title to the land.
- 3/3 **Uranium*** (23 mins) First Nations communities near uranium mines feel the impact of sixty years of radioactive pollution.

VIDEO 4 Ages 13 to Adult

Questions are raised about the purpose of education, the definition of cultural genocide, and the lasting effects of epidemics on First Nations.

- 4/1 **Education, As We See It** (20 mins) The alienation experienced by many students in residential schools is compared with life in contemporary schools run by First Nations communities.
- 4/2 **Last Days of Okak** (26 mins) An influenza epidemic, brought to Labrador aboard a missionary supply ship, devastates the Inuit community of Okak in 1918.
- 4/3 **Commandos for Christ** (20 mins) The Ayoreo of Paraguay, sought out by missionaries, fall prey to poverty and death.

* These programs have been revised and shortened from the original productions for classroom use.



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INTRODUCING ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM

Interest and awareness of First Nations issues has increased greatly in recent years, but few teachers will have a detailed grasp of all the topics presented in this series. The Teachers' Guide, therefore, assumes little prior knowledge on the part of teachers and students alike, and is designed to facilitate exploration of the issues at a general level.

We also recognize that students will have a variety of information, stereotypes, misconceptions, and fragmentary perceptions of First Nations groups and issues. The videos and the guide are meant to help the teacher generate a safe environment where students can explore their knowledge and enlarge and "complicate" their thinking by dealing with a specific, focused inquiry. It is important for the teacher to create a safe environment in the classroom for exploration of these issues, with the understanding that all people have knowledge to contribute. It is important that students have an opportunity to add, check, modify, and challenge their own views and the views of others, in the class and on the videos. Everyone has a right to voice their views and to be listened to. The crucial role for the teacher in this process is to facilitate and manage classroom discussion.

THE TEACHING PROCESS

The pedagogy used in this series is designed to help educate students for social responsibility. The key elements of the teaching process are:

- an emphasis on the concept of social/ cultural/ environmental/ global interdependence
- a recognition of the importance of building a community within the classroom and the school, and an emphasis on developing decision-making skills within the context of a democratic classroom
- an emphasis on giving students a voice and listening to their questions and concerns. This approach begins with what the students already know; helps them to examine critically the sources of their information and the assumptions and biases inherent in those sources; and then moves on to questions the students raise.
- the inclusion of multiple perspectives: seek wisdom from all ages
- an emphasis on communication (verbal and non-verbal) as an attitude as well as a skill; on seeking common ground; and on tolerating ambiguity and the uncertainty of knowledge
- a recognition of the importance of forming and acting upon convictions and commitments, while staying open to new ideas and the possibility of being wrong
- the inclusion of activities for information, feeling, and action, facilitating the integration of spirit and mind
- to create a climate where all are teachers, all are learners.

The section above is reprinted from the Teacher's Guide for this series. For a copy of the Guide, write to — First Nations: The Circle Unbroken, National Film Board, Ste. 300, 1045 Howe St., Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 2B1.