

Tribal Vision Dance

Presents:



Visions of Turtle Island

Study Guide

Discussions - Background Information- Classroom Activities

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TRIBAL VISON DANCE
“Visions of Turtle Island” Study Guide - Outline
Technical Requirements

- **“Visions of Turtle Island” is 40 minutes long**
- **We require access to the space and change room 1 hour before the performance for set up and 30 minutes after to strike.**
- **20' x 20' performance space (stage, gym floor or cafetorium are all acceptable spaces)**
- **Access to electrical outlets**
- **Access to lighting panel to be able to dim some lights for better viewing of the multimedia screen**
- **1 Change room that is adjacent to the performance space that will be off limits to students for the duration of our visit.**
- **Students to be seated in a standard audience format (not in a circle or semi circle) with an aisle preferred**
- **Parking for 1 car**

What To Expect...

“Visions of Turtle Island” is a very high energy show. It showcases live First Nations powwow style singing and dancing. Included is a wealth of cultural and historical information. Dance and music are a lot more than just entertainment to us. They are our way of giving thanks through ceremony dances and our way of enjoying each others company through our social dances. We are going to be sharing both competitive style as well as social dances with your school today.

- This performance can be loud
- This performance is fast moving and very colourful
- students are encouraged to clap and sing along at appropriate times
- students will be encouraged to volunteer to do some participation dances
- students will be encouraged to answer questions
- students will be encouraged to save their questions for the end of the performance



About the Company...

Tribal Vision is a First Nations family dance company based on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario, Canada. The company presents the exciting dance and music of North America's First People's through multimedia shows and workshops with schools, festivals and special events. The Company is made up of Champion Dancers who love sharing their rich culture with people the world over.



About The Dance and Music...

The Dance Styles that will be presented are dances that you would see if you attended a Powwow. A powwow is a social gathering where First Nations people from all over North America (Turtle Island) come together to dance, sing, visit, arrange ceremonies, and give thanks to Creator. Powwows are not performances done for the public however the public is more than welcome to come and witness the celebrations that happen at them. The drum that you hear represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the songs that you hear most often are vocable melodies carried out over a drum rhythm.

Pre-Show Discussion

Primary

- Have you ever been to a powwow before?
- What do you think First Nations dancing will look like?
- What do you think First Nations music will sound like?
- At what occasions do you and members of your family dance?
- At what occasions do you and members of your family sing/make music?

Junior

- Have you ever been to a powwow before?
- What do you think First Nations dancing will look like?
- What do you think First Nations music will sound like?
- At what occasions do you and members of your family dance?
- At what occasions do you and members of your family sing/make music?
- How do you connect with nature?
- How do you/your family members show thankfulness?

What to watch/listen for...

Primary

- Notice the different types of dance outfits and designs
- Look for the different types of instruments used including the outfits of the dancers
- Listen for the types of music made and how the singer uses his voice to create a mood
- Look for how the different dance outfits suit the dance style



Junior

- Notice the intricate footwork of the dance
- Notice how the outfits suit the different styles of dance
- Notice the placement of feathers
- Listen for how the music sets a mood
- Listen for the different types of rhythms in the music



Post Show Discussion

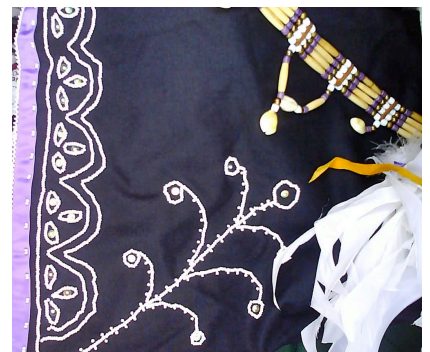
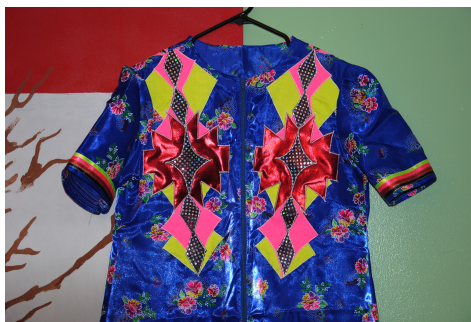
- How did the music make you feel? Did different instruments make you feel different emotions?
- How is what you saw in the performance different from what you expected to see?
- How can you tell what type of song is used for each type of dance?
- What does the drum beat symbolize?
- Why did the dancers use Eagle feathers on their regalia?
- How did the outfits enhance the performance?
- What symbols or designs did you notice on the outfits? What do you think they meant?
- What was the main message of the performance?
- How can you in your class, school, town or globally achieve unity?

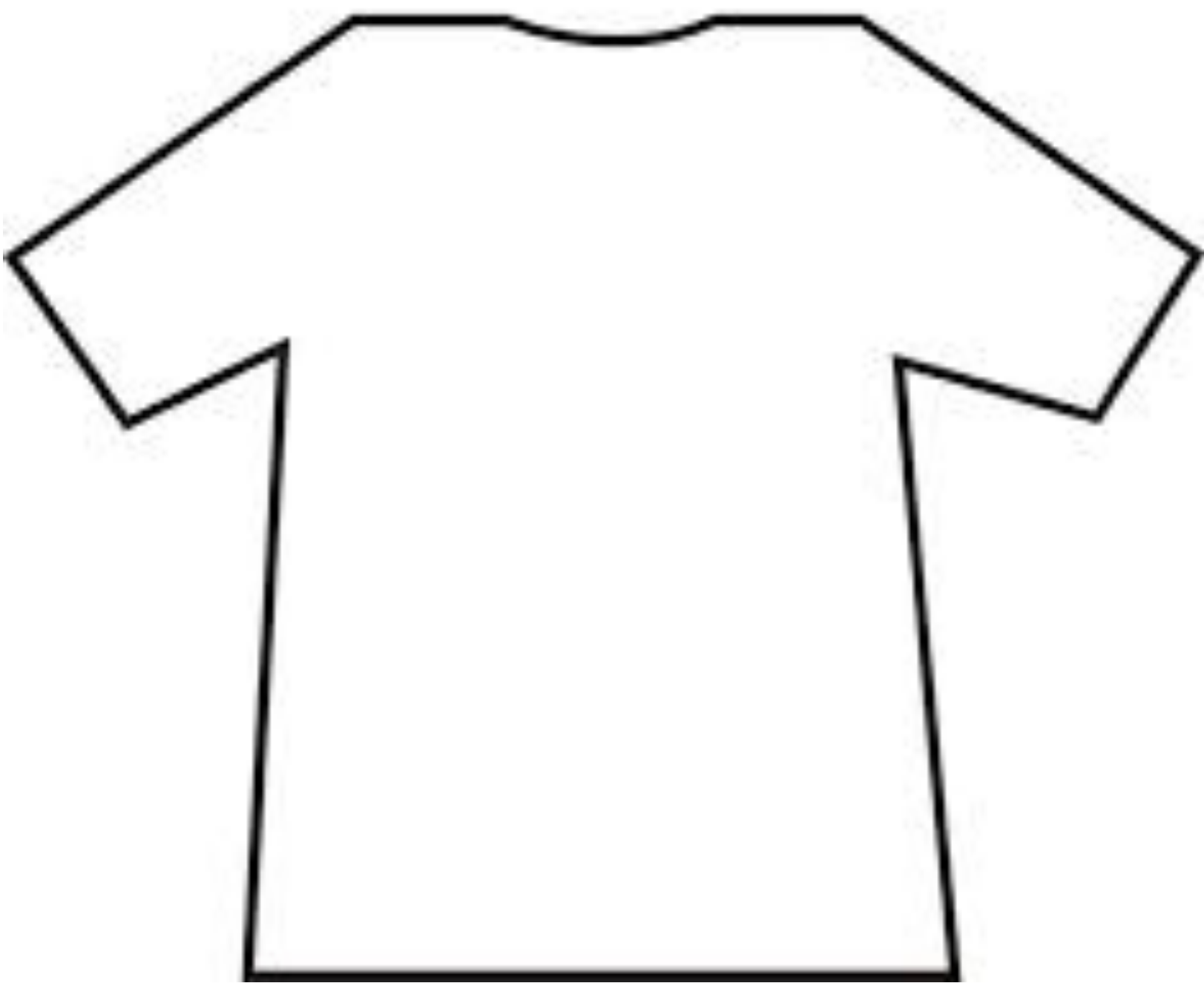


Activities

Using this pattern, create designs, symbols and colours that would tell a story about you if you were to wear this shirt.

Try things like family crests, flags, favourite sports teams or activities.



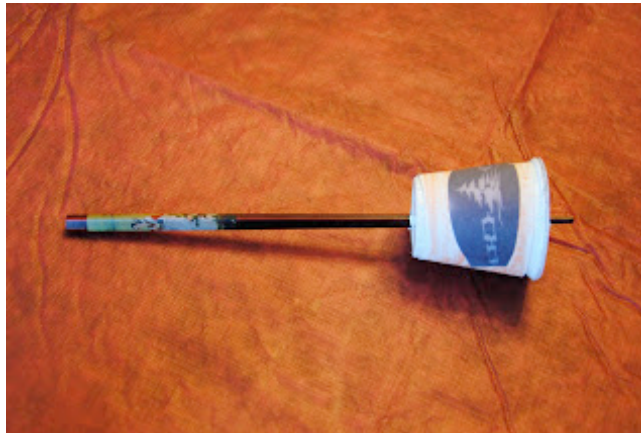


How To Make A Rattle

This is a Bull Horn Rattle. It is used in the social songs and dances of the Haudenosaunee People. Below are the steps to making a rattle that you can use in your class.



The materials you will need are a plastic bathroom cup, an 8" section of dowel rod, poster board, popcorn kernels and hot glue.

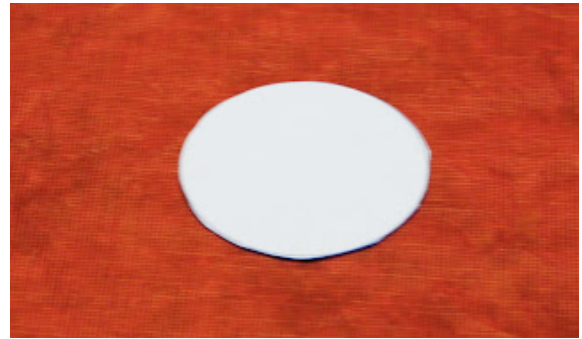


Once you have followed the instructions on the next page to make the rattle, you can use it to create your own songs using vocal melodies. The songs should follow a format of a lead (solo) a second (everyone repeats the lead) and a chorus. The song can be repeated as many times as you wish.

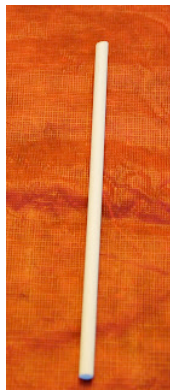
First you poke a hole in the center of the bottom of the cup that is just large enough for the wooden dowel to fit in.



Next, on the poster board you trace the opening of the cup and cut it out slightly larger. You then poke a hole in the centre of the cut out circle just large enough for the dowel rod to fit through.



You then put the dowel through the circle cap and the cup. Next you place 5 - 10 corn kernels in the cup and glue the circle cap onto the cup.



To glue the cap run a line of hot glue along the edge of the cup and gently place cap centred on cup. Next glue the top and bottom holes where the dowel comes through to ensure they don't tear open.



If you wish to decorate the rattle you need to cut one of the unused cups straight down the side and cut off the top and bottom rims. You now have a perfect template to cut out on paper that can be coloured or painted. This can then be glued onto the cup.



The completed rattle makes a very nice rhythmic sound that closely resembles that of the original Horn Rattle.



Links And Other Resources

- www.tribalvisiondance.ca
- www.woodland-centre.on.ca
- www.goodminds.com
- www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.ca
- <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/foreducatorsstudents/>