



**INDIGENOUS
CANADA**

Activation Ideas

Introduction and Background Information

What is an Activation Idea?

These “Activation Ideas” offer suggestions for programming and supporting participation in the Indigenous Canada MOOC at your library.

Before you decide on your Activation Idea, it’s a good idea to explore the course content and familiarize yourself with some of the details.

Here’s some background information to get you started:

About Coursera: Coursera (www.coursera.org) is an online platform that provides access to a wide range of MOOCs created by universities and organizations around the world. For information on how to sign up for courses hosted on Coursera, see P2PU’s [Coursera Platform Guide](#).^[1]

About the Course:

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada, from an Indigenous perspective. Learn about key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations.¹

You can view a video trailer for the course here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAcPNxvw0_A

Where to Access the Course: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>

Audience:

- All Canadians (We Are All Treaty People)
- Library Users
- Adults and Older Youth

¹ From Coursera/UofA description: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada> or <https://www.ualberta.ca/courses/indigenous-canada>



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Key Points:

- A unique online learning experience that emphasizes Indigenous perspectives and worldviews
- Learn about Canada's history from an Indigenous perspective
- Investigates issues important for understanding the past and current relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous societies
- Developed by the faculty and staff at the Faculty of Native Studies, at the University of Alberta
- Engage with the perspectives of Indigenous peoples and the complex relationship with Canada

Weekly Module Topics:

Week 1 – Worldview

In this introductory module, students learn the significance of stories and storytelling in Indigenous societies. We explore history that comes from Indigenous worldviews, this includes worldviews from the Inuit, Nehiyawak, Kanien:keha'ka and Tlingit peoples.

Week 2 – Fur Trade

This module discusses pre-contact trading systems between Indigenous peoples of North America with a focus on the geographical region of Canada. We examine the chronological events of contact with Europeans and the events leading up to, and during the fur trade. This module also explores the long lasting social, political and economic ramifications of the fur trade on Indigenous peoples.



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Weekly Module Topics (cont'd):

Week 3 – Trick or Treaty

Examines Indigenous and settler perspectives of treaty making. Discusses the variation of treaties in Canada and the unique circumstances surrounding these events. Outlines the temporal and geographical history of the numbered treaties (beginning on the east) and ends with a discussion of the historical events and policies leading up to Métis scrip.

Week 4 – New Rules, New Game

This lesson begins with a discussion about what is distinctive in Indigenous legal traditions. Explores impacts of policies put in place as British North America attempted to solidify itself geographically and socially. Examines the ways in which the Indian Act contributed to assimilation.

Week 5 – “Killing the Indian in the Child”

Outlines characteristics of teaching and learning in Indigenous communities, and discusses how relationships were critical in teaching and learning. Traces the development and implementation of the Residential school system in the period after Confederation. Discusses intergenerational impact of Residential school system and the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Week 6 – A Modern Indian?

This lesson examines the burgeoning resistance of Indigenous leaders and the formation of Indigenous-led organizations as the Canadian government employed strategies to encourage assimilation of Aboriginal peoples and communities into mainstream society, specifically relating to urbanization.



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Weekly Module Topics (cont'd):

Week 7 – Red Power

In this lesson students will learn about key characteristics of a few different Indigenous political structures and the impacts of colonialism on these structures (e.g. Indian Act, Red Power/AIM, White Paper, Red Paper -Citizens Plus) Concepts explored include self-government, self-determination, and Indigenous resurgence.

Week 8 – Sovereign Lands

Utilizing contemporary and traditional examples, this lesson connects Indigenous worldviews and traditional ecological knowledge. As well, this lesson traces the historical impacts of settlement. Discusses key concepts of case law associated with Aboriginal title, rights to land and resources. List the on-going threats to Indigenous lands and how these threats and challenges are being addressed.

Week 9 – Indigenous Women

Exploring Indigenous concepts of gender, and the traditional roles and responsibilities, this lesson then moves into an examination of how colonization can be characterized as a gendered project. Identifies some concrete examples of the impact of colonialism on Indigenous women.

Week 10 – Indigenous in the City

Looking critically at the statement: “Cities are the place where Aboriginal culture goes to die”, this lesson explores sites of urban Aboriginal agency/active participation, urban Aboriginal governance practices, and urban reserves.



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Weekly Module Topics (cont'd):

Week 11 – Current Social Movements

What is an Indigenous concept of community? How do Indigenous people form communities traditionally and today? This module will explain how social and environmental activism can mobilize and create communities. This module identifies key moments such as the Oka Crisis, Idle No More and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls as grassroots resistance movements.

Week 12 – ‘Living’ Traditions: Expressions in Pop Culture and Art

Finally, we will explore how geographical location, trading networks and partnerships have influenced Indigenous art in the past. As well, we will examine contemporary iterations of Indigenous art and explore some of the artistic responses of Indigenous artists, musicians, and writers to the impacts of colonialism.