
LESSON PLAN FOR LEGACIES COMIC STRIP: “HOW DID EUROPEANS COLONIZE THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST?”

Lesson Overview

This comic strip is a small snippet from Gord Hill’s *The 500 Years of Resistance Comic Book* and newer *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book: Revised and Expanded*. Gord Hill is a member of the Kwakwaka’wakw nation, author of multiple comic books, and advocate of Indigenous people’s movements.

Resources:

- Comic strip “How did Europeans colonize the Pacific Northwest” by Gord Hill

Lesson Learnings

Inquiry Question:

- How did Europeans colonize the Pacific Northwest Coast?

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze the different approaches Europeans used to colonize the Pacific Northwest Coast.
- Examine the legacies of colonialism on Indigenous communities on the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Activate Prior Knowledge

Use any of the following questions for group discussion or as think-pair-share. Students could draw a mind map to keep track of words and ideas.

- Based on the exhibit so far, what are some examples of how Europeans colonized the Pacific Northwest Coast? How do you think Europeans continued to colonize the Pacific Northwest Coast in the 1800s?

Read Comic Strip

Read the comic strip “How did Europeans colonize the Pacific Northwest Coast?” by Gord Hill

Analysis Prompts

These additional prompts challenge students to further analyze what they've learned from the video. These questions ask students to reflect on the practice of history and incorporate evidence to justify their claims. In some cases, students may benefit from further resources to explore these questions.

- Respond to the title question: How did Europeans colonize the Pacific Northwest Coast?
- How do you think the introduction and spread of the smallpox disease impacted Indigenous resistance efforts?

Wrap Up Discussion

Wrap up your lesson with a reflective discussion. Ask students to give answers to the following questions, either as a class, in small groups, or as an independent writing exercise.

- What are some of the legacies of colonialism on the Indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest Coast?
- What factors influence colonialism in Canada today?

Extend the Comic Strip

This comic strip covers only some of the many acts of colonialism, oppression, and dispossession. Indigenous peoples across Canada experienced many different acts of colonialism over the centuries, up to and after 1876 when this comic strip ends.

Students will add one or two new panels to this comic strip to teach about other ways Europeans colonized the Pacific Northwest Coast and their impacts. Students can include historical events from the 1800s or a later period (examples: Indian residential schools; Sixties Scoop; the Gradual Civilization Act; the High Arctic Relocation; potlatch ban; reserve system). Gord Hill's comic strip focuses on the Pacific Northwest Coast, but you may choose to focus on your locale.

Create a Comic Strip

1. Each group creates a storyboard for their new panel(s). They should roughly draw out the title of each scene, an illustration of each scene, and a summary of each scene. This will help them to build and edit their story. Think about:
 - What's the main message you want the reader to take away?
 - How can you use visuals to tell the story?
 - Comic strips use minimal words. What text is *most* important to communicate?
2. Draw out the new comic panels by hand or using an online comic strip software, like Storyboard Creator.
3. Every group shares their new panels for the rest of the class to read.

Discussion

After seeing all the comic panels, reflect on:

- Why are these historical events significant today? How do they impact Indigenous peoples today?
- How is colonialism still present in Canada today?

Extra Resources

- *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book: Revised and Expanded* (2021) by Gord Hill
- *The 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance Comic Book* (2010) by Gord Hill