

EXPLORING RED DRESS DAY AND THE REDRESS PROJECT

SUGGESTED AGES:

GRADES 9-12+



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WHO IS JAIME BLACK?

Red Dress Day is honoured every year on May 5 to bring awareness to the disproportionate violence that impacts Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people throughout Canada. It was inspired by artist Jaime Black's REDress Project, whose installation became the symbol of a movement that shed light on the crisis and continues the conversation in the public realm today.

Join us for this very special DWF LIVE with Jaime Black, where she will share more about the creation of the REDress Project, its impact, and how the arts can bring awareness, change, and healing on the journey of reconciliation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand the significance of Red Dress Day in raising awareness about violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in Canada.
2. Examine the role of art, specifically the REDress Project, in initiating conversations about social issues and promoting healing.
3. Reflect on personal and collective responsibility in supporting Indigenous communities and addressing systemic inequalities.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Access to information about Red Dress Day and the REDress Project
- Link to DWF Live related to the REDress Project
- Writing materials for reflective exercises



INTRODUCTION (10 MINUTES):

- Begin the lesson by asking students if they have heard of Red Dress Day or the REDress Project. Allow for brief discussions and any prior knowledge students may have.
- Introduce the topic of Red Dress Day and its significance in raising awareness about violence against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in Canada.

PRESENTATION (15 MINUTES):

- Present information about the history and significance of Red Dress Day, including its connection to the REDress Project and artist Jaime Black.
- Explain we will be watching the DWF Live event with Jamie Black



DISCUSSION (20 MINUTES):

Facilitate a discussion around the following questions:

1. What is Red Dress Day, and why is it celebrated on May 5th every year?
2. Who is Jaime Black, and what is her connection to the REDress Project?
3. What inspired Jaime Black to create the REDress Project?
4. How has the REDress Project become a symbol of a larger movement?
5. What is the significance of the red dresses in the REDress Project?
6. What is the purpose of honoring Red Dress Day?
7. How does violence disproportionately impact Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people in Canada?
8. What role does art, specifically the REDress Project, play in raising awareness about this issue?
9. How can art contribute to societal change and healing, particularly in the context of reconciliation?
10. What are some ways individuals can get involved in supporting Indigenous communities and addressing issues of violence and inequality?

ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES):

- Divide students into small groups and assign each group a reflective question related to the lesson objectives (e.g., How can we as individuals support Indigenous communities?).
- Have students discuss their assigned question within their groups and jot down their thoughts.



CONCLUSION (10 MINUTES):

- Reconvene as a class and allow each group to share their reflections.
- Summarize key takeaways from the lesson and encourage students to consider how they can apply their learning in their own lives.

ASSESSMENT:

- Assessment can be based on students' participation in discussions, engagement with the material, and the quality of their reflections during the activity.

This lesson provides an opportunity for students to explore a significant social issue, engage with art as a means of advocacy, and reflect on their roles in promoting social justice and reconciliation.

