

Walking Land: Each One, Teach One



Activity Purpose

Since time immemorial, Native and Indigenous people have learned about the world through relationships. Each one of us has special knowledge and gifts that we use to teach others. This activity involves collaborative teaching and learning with plant relatives.



Activity Overview

- ◇ Get to know a plant relative by going on walks and making visits to where it grows. You might use the plant cards or the other activities to guide learning.
- ◇ Now that you are a knowledge carrier for that plant, pass that knowledge on to someone else! You might teach someone you live with, a group of friends, or call someone that lives far away. Tell about how you came to know the plant relative, the plant's life cycle and how it changes through the seasons. Where do you find it? What kind of habitat does it like and why? How do you identify it? What gifts does it have to offer different plants, humans and other animals?
- ◇ Now it's time to learn from others! Ask the other person(s) if they have anything to teach. If you're in a group, go around and have everyone else teach about their plant relative.

Roles, Relations, Responsibilities & Gifts

- ◇ Think about what you know in relation to what others know. We don't need to know everything on our own because we all carry different kinds of knowledge and can learn from each other.
- ◇ What is your role as a knowledge carrier? Discuss your responsibilities to plant relatives and other humans.
- ◇ Think of your knowledge as a gift that you give and receive from others. You receive gifts from plant relatives and can pass them on.
- ◇ Teaching facilitates relationships. You are introducing others to your plant relative so they can have their own relationship with it.

Learning Across Generations & with Other Families

- ◇ Take time to hear the ideas from everyone in your family. What do you learn from each other? What are the different perspectives the youngest children bring? And the oldest?
- ◇ While learning in person is ideal, doing the activity virtually is a good opportunity to learn about plants from other climates.

Making Connections with Stories

- ◇ Do you have any tribal or family stories to share about a plant? Ask an Elder if they have stories to share.
- ◇ Story is a great way to teach about our plant relatives! Consider telling a story about the plant or your relationship to it. Ask children to consider their roles as storytellers about that plant.

Supporting Learning & Wellbeing

- ◇ This activity works best outside where plants are alive and present. If you're in a group, walk to the different plants where everyone takes turns teaching. If you can't physically be with others, you might use video chat.
- ◇ The best kind of learning happens when we teach from our own experiences. Use phrases like, "I noticed that..", "this is how I know..." and "my auntie told me that.."
- ◇ It can be helpful to start the activity by talking about big ideas. When everyone is finished, discuss what you all learned and revisit the big ideas. Bookending in this way can make the big ideas come through more clearly.
- ◇ Give the learners time to ask questions that they might have. Some questions might not have easy answers. These are the best questions because they lead to more learning for everyone!
- ◇ Remember that everyone is still learning. The plant teacher doesn't need to know everything about the plant.

Making Relations with Lands & Waters

- ◇ This activity strengthens relationships among family, friends and community. It also strengthens your collective relationship with land. What are things that you can do collectively to continue building your relationships with land and with one another?

Decolonization, Resurgence & Good Relations

One of the big goals of this activity is to help us think about how we learn and where our knowledge comes from. Colonization started the idea that learning primarily happens in school. This activity disrupts that idea by holding that we learn collaboratively with our plant and human relatives.