

## Storydrawing



### Activity Purpose

Use this activity to focus your attention on your relationship with waters around you. Indigenous people have intimate relationships with water of our planet, Mother Earth. Anishinaabe peoples express gratitude for relations with water through ceremony and song and other Indigenous communities have varying protocols for recognizing water as relation. Water stories have been shared in Indigenous communities across generations to maintain teachings and relationships. Using stories you can understand water as relative and build relationships toward a positive future. During this activity, you will reflect on your favorite memories visiting waters and share those memories through a story picture.



### Activity Overview

Talk about important, fun, or memorable experiences that your family has had with water.

Make a picture of a favorite memory from your time with water, or from water's perspective. This could be water you visited or water in the home. What stories did water share? Were there human, plant, animal, or other relatives with water? Why did you select this memory?

Tell, write, or record the story and share as a family.

### Roles, Relations, Responsibilities & Gifts

- ◇ Imagine how water you remembered was like in the past and future, what may be different or the same?
- ◇ Consider the gifts received when you visit the water and what can be offered in return.
- ◇ Discuss the current risks water faces such as pollution, being owned, and climate change. How can humans and more-than humans help minimize these risks?
- ◇ How are the relatives in your picture related? Are there beings or relationships that aren't visible?



## 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 and oldest children bring?
- ◇ Talk with relatives, friends, and elders about your memories of the water. What do they know, remember, or imagine about that place? What stories do they have with water?
- ◇ Share your story with family and friends. Ask them to share stories in return.

## Supporting Learning & Wellbeing

- ◇ Consider the water as a relative to support children's sense of security. How do they feel when they think about visiting water? What relationships have been developed?
- ◇ Ask family and friends what memories they've made with water? How have they been good relatives to water?
- ◇ While walking with your family, look for places with water. What behaviors do you see the water taking on? How do interactions with land and beings shape the water. Can you communicate this in your art?
- ◇ Look at pictures of Indigenous art, how or where do you see water in these images? Do they remind you of your family stories and experiences?



## Making Connections with Stories

- ◇ Share stories of other waters you have visited as a family.
- ◇ Imagine stories about water in different places.
- ◇ Tell or listen to stories and songs from your community about water.
- ◇ [Nibi Song \(Anishinaabe\)](#)
- ◇ [Ojibwe Flood Story](#)

## Making Relations with Lands & Waters

- ◇ Look back at the picture and consider who is represented in the place surrounding the water. Add anything from your memories or imagination that might be missing.
- ◇ What does this place look like during other seasons? Consider how and why the water and this place change across seasons.
- ◇ Consider ways to strengthen relationships with water in that place (offer tobacco, sing etc.). How might we strengthen relations with water when we're not there?

## Decolonization, Resurgence & Good Relations

Consider social movements around water sovereignty across our extended Kin communities (#NoDAPL, #WaterIsLife, #ShutDownLine5, Flint Water Crisis) and ways local leaders have worked for change (e.g. Grandmother Josephine Mandamin (ba), Billy Frank Jr., Senator John McCoy, BlackLivesMatter organizers).

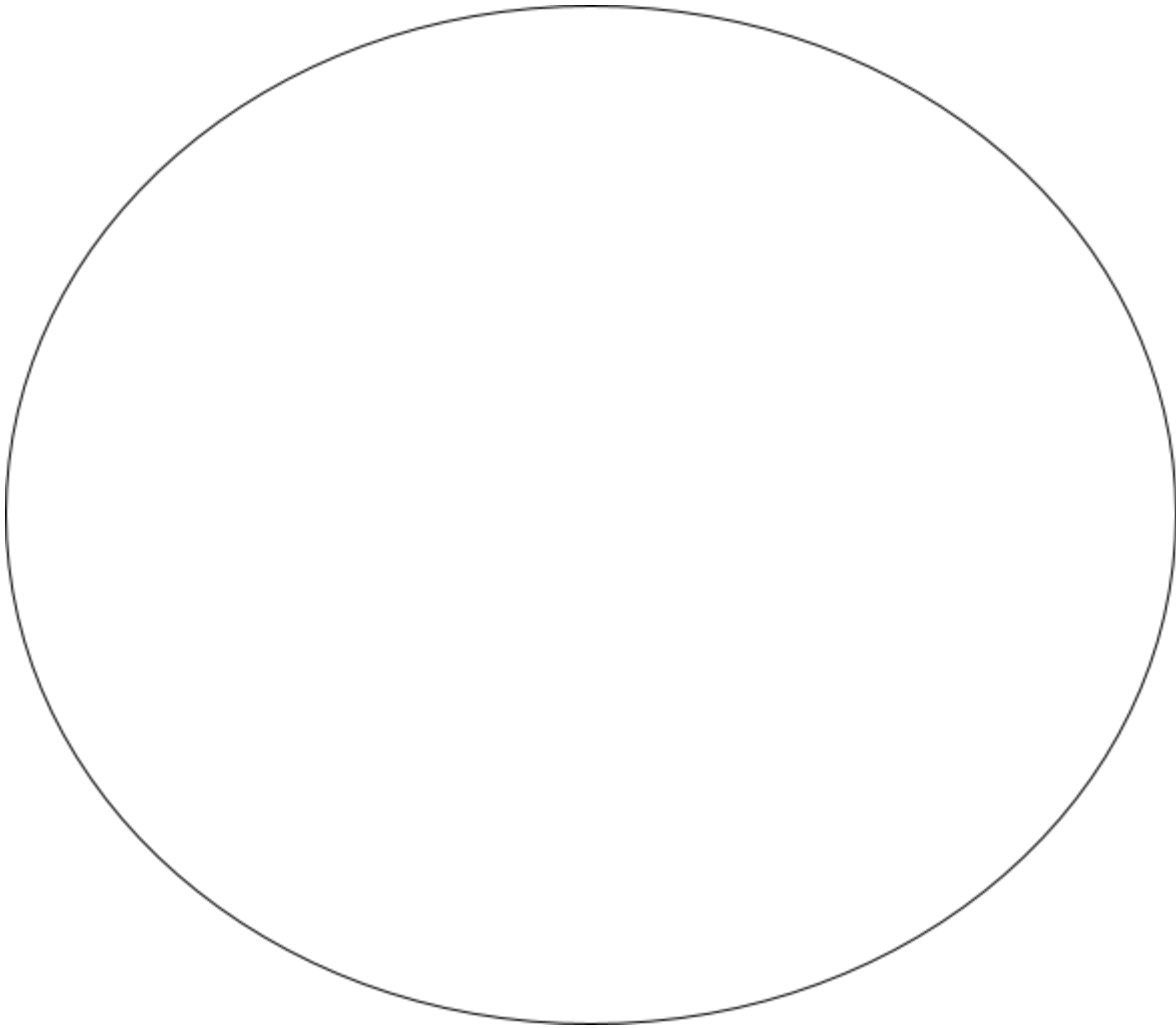
Discuss ways that relationships with water work to secure positive Indigenous futures and connect as co-conspirators with extended kin, particularly between and within Indigenous and Black communities.

Discuss who has access to water and who doesn't. How has climate change and corporate influence changed relationships with water? What efforts of activism can we take to secure healthy waters?

Talk about ways to take care of the water everyday. Consider visiting the water to offer gifts and build strong relationships.

## Storydrawing

*Use this template to draw a picture of a favorite memory from the water.*



*Who were you with in your memory of the water? (Consider human, plant, animal, and other relatives)*

*What stories did the water share with you?*

*Why did you select this memory?*

*Consider recreating the memory as it would be a long time ago or into the future.*