

GRASPS

UNIT: FIRST NATIONS PADDLES

SUBJECT: Math, Visual Arts, Language Arts – Grades 4-7

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(s):

- **VISUAL ARTS**
 - **How does art connect us, our communities, and our cultures?**
- **MATH**
 - **How does geometry help us make sense of the world?**
- **LANGUAGE ARTS**
 - **How does oral storytelling connect us to places and people?**
 - **How can an open mind lead us to deeper understandings about ourselves and other cultures?**
 - **Why does writing have a purpose?**

G R A S P S	
Goal:	
Goal	To create a unique paddle design that incorporates traditional First Nations shapes and design.
Role:	
Role	You are an artist.
Audience:	
Audience	First Nations Elders and other community members.

Situation:

Situation Your paddle must tell a story that you will also be asked to share. This story can either be on how it was made, or be a fictional story that it represents. Make sure to make connections to your knowledge of Aboriginal place and culture in your story. Once the story is written, you will be asked to share your story orally with others.

Performance or Product:

Performance or Product Your paddle should include various First Nations shapes we have learned about, and should show understanding of form and design.

You will be working through the writing process to create your story.

When orally sharing your story, you will be asked to be aware of your audience and how to engage them.

Standards:

Standards N/A.

Differentiation:

Differentiation **ADAPTATIONS:**

- Paper templates can be provided for the paddle design; if possible, paddle could be three-dimensional and be done with wood or as some other sculpture
- Graphic organizers from Literacy 44 can be provided to support students through the writing process

- Students could orally share their stories to a variety of group sizes, or even record themselves if they are uncomfortable sharing in front of others.

EXTENSIONS:

- Explore the concept of asymmetry using Metis beadwork and create floral designs using the traditional Metis elements (i.e. significance of four; asymmetry; bright, floral, includes vines, berries, leaves and references to mountains and rivers).
- Soapstone carving to explore Inuit art and a different medium in visual arts.