English First Peoples 11

8th Fire: It’s Time (Episode 2)

[Click here to watch](https://youtu.be/ELUs4pM_xUY) Indigenous in the City (episode 1)

**Background***: 8th Fire* is a four-part documentary series about contemporary

Aboriginal peoples in Canada, social and economic issues facing

them, and possibilities for moving forward in a world that is rapidly

changing.

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| **Note on terminology and** [**nomenclature**](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nomenclature)  Language is alive and fluid, constantly changing and adapting based on usage and  societal shifts. Throughout history, different terminology  and **nomenclature** (the act or process of naming things) have been used to describe groups of  people, some of which may be offensive by today’s standards.  We talk about this so that we learn and teach others the proper terminology to use.  In Canada, it is generally suitable to say **First Nations** or **Aboriginal**, but whenever  possible, it is more appropriate to use the name of the specific group of people, such as the  **Mohawk**, the **Lil’wat** or the **Cree**. |

The second of the 8th Fire four-part series expands on some of the ideas introduced in Episode 1, such as the Indian Act, the impact of colonization, treaties, and residential schools. Comedian Howie Miller makes recurrent appearances, and his family is used as an example of how exploring your identity can help to repair some of the wrongs of the past. The main elements to focus on for this episode are: the impact of colonization and ways to heal after generations of trauma.

***8th Fire – It’s Time (Episode 2)***

# Pre-Discussion

* Have you heard the phrase “get over it” used toward Indigenous People before?
* How did the fur trade impact Indigenous Peoples?
* What is a Wampum Belt? What does that say about the systems of Indigenous Peoples pre-contact?
* What is the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and how did it initially impact Indigenous Peoples?
* What is the Enbridge Pipeline and what are the pros and cons for Indigenous communities? Who should ultimately make decisions around this?

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**Critical Thinking Challenges**

1. Think about historical events that have impacted your family or people of your ethnic group. Why is it important to learn about historical contexts?

2. What is colonization, and how has colonization impacted Canada?

**Viewing Questions: Point Form is accepted. Please write your answers in a different colour font.**

1. In this episode, we meet Howie Miller and his family. What experience did Miller have while growing up? How has this impacted his identity as an Aboriginal man? What does he do today? Why is this significant?
2. Howie Miller’s son, Tyson Houseman, wants to be a role model for Aboriginal youth. Why does he want this, and how is he achieving this goal? How has he explored his own Aboriginal identity?
3. In approximately two minutes, Wab Kinew takes us on a walk through colonial history, exploring the events relevant to the relationship between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Describe this walk through history. What are the major events? What historical documents are particularly significant?
4. Why was the Indian Act (1876) created by the Government of Canada? What were some of the controls placed on Status Indians as a result of the Indian Act? How did the repatriation of the of the Canadian Constitution in 1982 change the Indian Act?
5. The Vancouver 2010 Olympics made a profound impact on many local First Nations, particularly those in the Whistler area. Discuss the impact on the Lil’wat Nation in terms of recognition, acknowledgement and economic gains. In terms of the rest of Canada, what is the significance of this fundamental relationship change?
6. We meet Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada, who also served for some time as Finance Minister. He is also a very successful businessman in his own right. Why does he think the non Aboriginals and Aboriginals should partner financially?
7. We meet Vanessa, a 32-year-old mother of six, who has just received a job offer from a financial institution. How has she moved beyond what some might have expected of her? Why is she participating in Nadya Kwandibens’s “Concrete Indian” photo series? [Red Works](http://www.redworks.ca/)
8. The cover of the 8th Fire guide depicts one of Nadya Kwandiben’s photos. What is she trying to achieve through the creation of the “Concrete Indian” series? How is the photo on the cover representative of the purpose of the series?
9. Throughout the episode, we see segments of a workshop presented by John Lagimodiere, owner of Aboriginal Consulting Services. What is his approach in his workshops? Initially, what are the reactions from participants? By the end of the workshop, how have their reactions changed?
10. Discuss the differences between the experiences of Native Americans in the United States during colonization and the experiences of Aboriginal people in Canada during the same time period. 11. The celebration shown during Treaty Day is symbolic. Discuss some of the events of that day, and why some First Nations continue to celebrate this day.