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Building Bridges

By Building Understanding Through Current Events

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This theme-based resource examines Canada's colonial history and its impact on Indigenous Peoples through the lens of current events. Articles paired with background information build the understanding that is a key first step on the road to reconciliation, while lesson plans that reflect the First Peoples Principles of Learning encourage students to adopt a respectful, reflective, empathetic, and inquiring frame of mind.

I enjoy the Building Bridges publications because they provide me with relevant, reliable and authentic information I can share with my students.

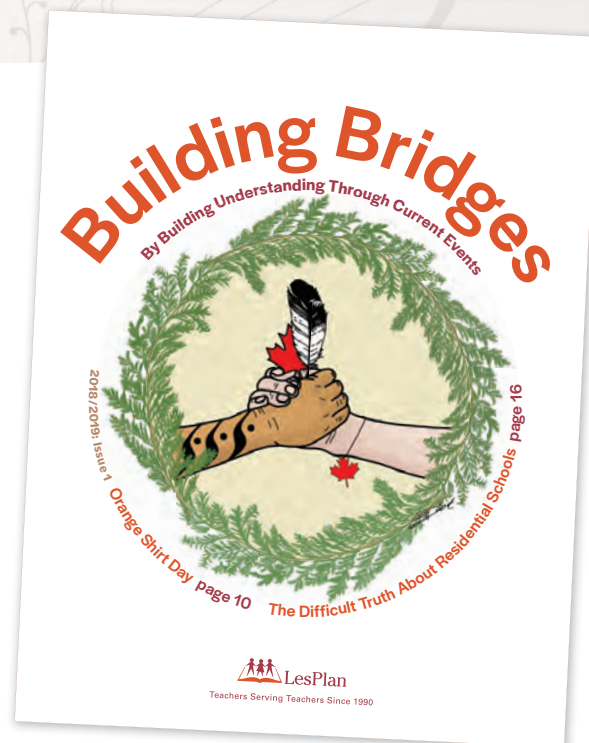
C. Ryan, Calgary, AB

"Best teaching practice" is incorporated into the thoughtful lessons and content of this excellent resource, which focuses on exploring Indigenous issues. Extremely useful!

L. Ikeda, Coquitlam, B.C.

I love using Les Plan Building Bridges curriculum. The guide for conducting a listening/speaking circle is invaluable - my students were drawn in to the class community effortlessly. The lessons are thorough and easy to follow. The stories are touching and provide a conduit into the lives of Indigenous Peoples and their true history. Thank you for this amazing resource provided in both French and English.

L. Blouin, Gr. 6 French immersion, Victoria, B.C.



See next page for samples and ordering details!

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Autumn Peltier: Water Warrior

When Autumn Peltier is asked what is the hardest thing she has ever had to do, she says it was the first time she spoke in front of a crowd. It was at a 2015 Children's Climate Conference in Sweden. She was 11 years old, and so nervous, she cried before going on stage.

Today, the 14-year-old Anishinaabe teen from Wikwemikong Unceded Territory on Ontario's Manitowish Island still gets nervous in front of an audience. But she has become a **veteran** speaker and **advocate** for clean drinking water, particularly for Indigenous communities in Canada.

On March 22, 2018 – World Water Day – she addressed the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** in New York. She told **delegates** it was time to "worry up" and protect the world's water. According to UN figures, over two billion people lack access to safe drinking water.

"No one should have to worry if the water is clean or if they will run out of water," she said in her speech. "No child should grow up not knowing what clean water is or never know what running water is."

"We all have a right to this water as we need it – not just rich people, all people."

On that occasion, she wasn't nervous. "I felt like they all wanted to hear what I had to say, and I felt heard," she said. "It's just a great feeling to be speaking in front of world leaders."

"It's definitely not very common to see a 13-year-old girl addressing the 193 member states of the United Nations," said one UN official.

Definitions
advocate: someone who strongly and publicly supports someone or something
delegate: someone who is chosen to represent a group of other people at a meeting
United Nations General Assembly: the main organ of the United Nations (an intergovernmental organization based in New York that 193 countries belong to, created in 1945 to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international co-operation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations)
veteran: someone who has a lot of experience doing a particular activity

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Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is a national day of remembrance and reconciliation. It is held on September 30th, the day that the residential school system in Canada was officially ended. It is a day to remember the children who were taken from their families and sent to residential schools. It is a day to honor the survivors and their families. It is a day to learn about the history of residential schools and to work towards reconciliation.

Phyllis' Story

Phyllis Wewecheweweh was a young girl who was taken from her family and sent to a residential school. She was one of the many children who were taken from their families and sent to residential schools. She was one of the many children who were taken from their families and sent to residential schools. She was one of the many children who were taken from their families and sent to residential schools.

One Indigenous Worldview

One Indigenous Worldview is a diagram showing the interconnectedness of all things. It is a circular diagram with arrows pointing clockwise. The central circle is labeled "Earth". The outer ring is divided into four sections: "Water", "Plants", "Animals", and "Humans". The arrows indicate that all these elements are interconnected and affect each other.

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The Difficult Truth About Residential Schools

Residential schools were a part of Canadian history. They were places where Indigenous children were taken from their families and sent to live with other children who were not related to them. They were places where children were taught English and Canadian history. They were places where children were punished for speaking their own language and practicing their own traditions. They were places where children were often abused and neglected. They were places where children were often separated from their families and never saw them again.

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Free Reading Activities

Free Reading Activities are a collection of activities designed to help students improve their reading skills. They include activities such as reading comprehension questions, vocabulary exercises, and writing prompts. They are designed to be used with any book or article.

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