Strand:	Visual
Grades:	3
Content:	45 minute broadcast + hands-on activity

Beading with Randi

Overview

Students will be led through the process of moss bag beadwork and design. It will incorporate a history to the art form including its significance and importance to Indigenous identity. Beadwork has the ability to connect and educate people to Indigenous history and experience and by weaving together deeper connections to understanding, Indigenous cultures emerge.

Artist Bio

Hello there, my full name is **Randi Lynn Nanemahoo-Candline**. I originate from the Bigstone Cree Nation in Northern Alberta. I am 31 years old and I currently work at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. I also teach powwow dancing and beading throughout the community. I moved out to Saskatoon to obtain my Indian Social Work degree, which I had completed in 2014. My Indigenous culture teachings and practices have always played a huge part in my identity and have helped me to overcome many obstacles. I am also a Jingle Dress dancer and I make all the beadwork for myself and my family, who also dance powwow. Thanks to my dancing, beading, and my education I have had many opportunities to present, teach, and travel throughout Canada and the United States. Dancing and beading plays a huge role in my life and are forms of self-care I greatly rely on. I enjoy sharing my experiences and cultural teachings/practices/arts with others.

Pre-Broadcast Preparation:

For this broadcast your students can stay in their desks. This program shows you the techniques and skills you need to do the Post-Broadcast Activity.

Post-Broadcast Activity Preparation:

- **This project requires preparation and planning.** Please read the materials list below. Students can work from their desks. It is recommended that you organize some volunteers to assist. Set up a hot glue station separate from students, that only the teacher or adults have permission to use.

Materials List:

- 2 metres Canvas (cut to shape of moss bag, as seen in broadcast)
- 5 Poster board or cardboard (to cut into shape of moss bag)
- Material Hole Puncher
- 30 metres Yarn
- White Glue (preferably hot but white glue can be used for younger ones)
- Hot glue gun and sticks
- 1/2 grocery bag of moss
- Markers or crayons (to colour on canvas)
- Photo copy picture of each children's head (to put on their moss bag)
- Pinking sheers to cut canvas (canvas can fray easily, but utilizing pinking sheers reduces this from occurring)

Teachers To do:

- Cut out canvas to shape of moss bag for each student if needed. Use pinking sheers for this part, as this will reduce fraying.
- Cut poster board to the shape and size of moss bag canvas.
- Cut yarn pieces to size, 1 meter per student.
- Hole punch holes on both side of centre opening, parallel to one another.
- Print off picture of each student’s head (can be black and white), please print to scale of moss bag opening.

Curriculum Aims & Goals

Creative/Productive:
Students will learn traditional and non-traditional techniques in the making of contemporary Indigenous craft.

Critical/Responsive:
Randi encourages the dialogue of the current uses of traditional craft. Artworks will reflect upon place.

Cultural/Historical:
Candline will discuss the importance and tradition of her craft.

Saskatchewan Curriculum Outcomes:

Grade 3

CP3.8 Create art works using a variety of visual art concepts (e.g., contour lines), forms (e.g., drawing, sculpture) and media (e.g., pencils, pastels, found objects).

Instructions for the Post Broadcast Activity

Student Instructions

Step 1)

- Show students examples of moss bags that you found on the internet.

- Notice and discuss how many of these designs are inspired by nature: plants, animals, weather, scenery, etc. This provides room for a quick teaching on how First Nations people are strongly connected to the land as it provides us with everything for survival. It also allows artistic freedom to utilize designs that speak to their identity and passions.
- Ask students to call on a fond memory of being very young, and to incorporate that into the designing of their moss bag.

- Have children design their moss bags. They can use markers.

Step 2)

- Have children take their yarn and string up through the moss bag starting at the bottom holes and weaving back and forth through hole punched holes. Tie at the top

Step 3)

- Have children glue to their decorated canvas to the poster board/cardboard

Step 4)

- Take handful of moss and glue to top of moss bag.

Step 5)

- Have children glue the pictures of themselves to the top of the moss, to create the feeling that they made a moss bag for themselves.

Step 6)

- Allow time for glue to dry.

Teachings of the Moss Bag (read to your students)

- The Moss Bag was used by First Nations people to swaddle their babies, in time receiving blankets were not available. It provided comfort to the baby my mimicking the feeling of being in the womb.

- Unlike receiving blankets babies could not break out, since the moss bags were tied with a lace in the front.

- The Moss Bag received its name because it was in fact lined with moss. The moss acted as a diaper for the baby, soaking up the droppings. Just like you would change a diaper, the parents would wipe out the moss once used, and lay a fresh layer of moss afterwards. Fun fact, some parents today are actually returning to the practice of using moss for their babies, as diapers have been proven to give rashes as they are full of chemicals, harmful to babies sensitive skin.

- Moss Bags could be attached to "Cradle Boards" which were to small wooden planks that helped stabilize the Moss Bag. With the cradle board attached this allowed mom to carry the Moss Bag on her back or lean moss bag against a tree, so that she may use both hands while still keeping baby close to her.

- With the Moss Bag and Cradle Board attachment, carrying baby on moms back helped her body to realign. Mom had been carrying extra weight in her front area for all those months that she was pregnant, now by carrying baby on her back it helps her body to naturally balance out.

- It wasn't an uncommon practice to keep young ones in Moss Bags until the age of three years old. By this time children are more then capable of walking and learning to talk. So why keep them wrapped in the moss bag? For dual purposes, at this age children are very curious and often getting into a lot of mischief. Having them in the moss bag they are unable to run away, allowing mom to continue on with her choirs of the day, without worrying about the safety of her young one. Having baby swaddled in the moss bag for those first few years of their life, contributed to their brain development. Unable to move around, and use their hands, these children had no choice but to observe and listen. This taught the children important skills around discipline, contentment, being able to sit still for long periods of time (with out needing to fidget), and also to listen attentively. A skill we have seemed to lack in todays society, with the influx of technology that are designed to constantly stimulate our brains.

- The original moss bags were made out of hide, just as their clothing was. Once man made materials were introduced to First Nations people through trade with the settlers, along with the depletion of the Great Bison Herd, we see an influx of moss bags being made out of various materials. For this craft we will utilize canvas, this is the same material that people utilize to wrap their tipi poles with, as Bison hides are not readily available as they once were.

Sample of Student Moss Bag