

Stein Valley Nlakapamux School Language and Culture Project

Jurisdiction: First Nations/INAC

Contact: First Nations Education Steering
Committee

Level: K-12

Theme: Culture & Language

Description of Practice:

The Stein Valley Nlakapamux School initiated a Language and Culture project to encourage their students to learn about and retain their cultural heritage in a fun and engaging environment.

Background:

In order to strengthen cultural identity and language use, the school implemented Language and Cultural classes three times a week in their Language Room. The students participated in Language Drill Games practicing daily repetition of the names of animals, colors, and numbers. A Guest Artist also visited the students and demonstrated how to make traditional arrowheads and bowls. The funds for this initiative were made available through the federal funding for New Paths for Education Program (NPEP) which is administered by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) in the province of British Columbia.

Development:

This project incorporated language and culture training together to expose students to learning in a fun and traditional way. A majority of the students learned the Nlakapamux words for colors, numbers up to 40, and 25 animal names. The students also learned from a local community member who specialized in traditional art medium. Through a combination of language and culture activities the students gained knowledge and information of the relativity between First Nations history and art.

Evidence:

Written and oral evaluations of the students' knowledge of Nlakapamux language were conducted on an individual and group basis. Students demonstrated a satisfactory skill and knowledge in the use of various tools required for producing traditional arrowheads and bowls. The students' motivation is high because of the unique approach used for the encouragement of learning and using the Nlakapamux language.

Further information:

FNESC: <http://www.fnesc.ca/>

First Nations Education Steering Committee, 1-877-422-3672