

Canada: My Indian House **My Beautiful House Series**

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World Geography and Cultures, Multicultural Studies

Synopsis: Ten-year-old Catherine Wapachee is a Native North American. She lives in Ouje-Boougoumou with the Cree Indians from Quebec. She shows us her modern house and her teepee. Catherine enjoys making birdcages; she explains the importance of this activity in terms of her culture.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to compare and contrast their culture, family, and activities to Catherine's culture, family, and activities.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of cultures on our planet.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to locate Canada on a map or globe.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to describe Canadian cultural traditions.
- Objective 5)** Students will be able to compare how Catherine's basic needs are met with the way their own needs for food, clothing and shelter are met.

Vocabulary:

Canada, Quebec, Cree Indian, First Nations, herb, teepee, ancestors, village, Ouje-Bougoumou (means "the place where people gather"), nomadic (Canadian for Indians), roaming, respect, Mother Nature, beautify, landscape, rebuild, traditional, adapted, modern, moose, balcony, language, pray, tender, patient, concentration, dream-catcher, connected

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate Canada on a map or globe. Ask students on which continent Canada is located. Point out Quebec, Montreal, the Hudson Bay and the Atlantic Ocean on the map. Make sure viewers know where Canada is in relation to the rest of the world, including the United States and North America.
- 2) Discuss general characteristics of Canada such as climate, geographical features, the people, customs, etc.
- 3) Ask students to draw a map of their homes. Have them include the number of rooms, number of bedrooms, who lives with them, etc. Compare and contrast the different maps.

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Describe Catherine's family. How many brothers and sisters does she have? How many do you have? To what group does Catherine's family belong? Describe this group. To what kinds of groups does your family belong? How does Catherine help her mother? What kind of food does she like? Who prepares her meals?

- 2) Describe Catherine's home. Does she live in a teepee? Where is her home? Compare and contrast Catherine's home with your own. How are they similar or different? Who lives in Catherine's house? Who lives in your house? What is Catherine's room like? How is it similar or different from your own room? Do you share your bedroom, like Catherine? With whom does she share her room?
- 3) Compare and contrast Catherine's activities with your own. How are they similar or different? What does Catherine like to make? What do you and your friends like to do? Describe some of Catherine's collections. What do you like to collect? What is happening at Catherine's house? Whose birthday is it? How do Cree Indians celebrate birthdays? How do you celebrate your birthday? What kind of food do you serve for a birthday celebration?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Have students draw a picture of their neighborhood or write a story about their family and home. Then, have the students read their stories or display and describe their drawings for the class.
- 2) Ask the students to prepare a geographic profile of Canada noting its size, location, climate, natural resources, and outstanding cultural traits. Have them describe Canada's history, principal industries, people, and major tourist attractions.

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