



What is Treaty?

Grade 6 Treaty Play

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This play has been created in collaboration with North East School Division, Wagner School Grade 5/6 students, classroom teacher Marie Fafard, and Sharon Meyer (NESD FNMI ED Consultant).

The content of this play is to introduce Treaty teachings for the students to present at their school assembly.

Although First contact was made on the east coast this play will portrait Cree people as the First Nations contacted. In this way the audience will have a better understanding of the Treaty process.

There is to be NO PHOTOCOPYING or Sharing of this play without the knowledge or permission of Marie Fafard or Sharon Meyer.

Setting:

½ of stage has a tipi village in forest – part of stage is beach area by large body of water. This is where first contact takes place.

Characters:

Narrator	First Nation Hunter	First Nation Hide Tanner
First Nation Medicine Gatherer	Elder	Pipe Carrier
First Nation Storyteller	Crown Man	
First Ship Man	#1 First Nation	Treaty Announcer
Second Ship Man	#2 First Nation	
Third Ship Man	#3 First Nation	

Props:

Buffalo hides	ship	feather pen	sun
Turtle Island rug (medicine wheel painted on it)	red coat for Crown Man		
black vests for 3 ship men	tree	Sacred Pipe and Bag	moon
Mini tipi	bush	Fire pit	grass
Hide Frame and scrappers	book	Treaty Scroll	water

Pretend plants and basket to collect medicines

Mock cabin

Bow and arrow and spear

Blue cloth for water

Treaty Poster with saying....We Are All Treaty People

Narrator: Long ago First Nation people lived on Turtle Island (Turtle Island picture is on display - two stage people take it down and lay it on floor). In a tipi village there was plenty jobs for everyone. All First Nation people had to work to survive.

One person wearing a buffalo robe stands not too far from hunter.

First Nation Hunter: I learned since the age of twelve to hunt with the bow and arrow and to snare and spear! (Chases the buffalo off stage)

Two people hold tanning frame up so that tanner can pretend to tan the hide.

First Nation Hide Tanner: I learned since the age of twelve to prep and tan the animal hides so we can use hide and furs for clothing and shelter (Continues to tan the hide on the frame).

One person is a tree, one person is a bush stands not too far from Medicine Gatherer.

First Nation Medicine Gatherer: I gather the medicines of Mother Earth on Turtle Island so we can eat the berries, fruit, roots, and teas. We share all that we gather.

People sitting in front of Storyteller pretending to listen to story.

First Nation Storyteller: I have been selected at a very young age to carry the knowledge and I pass on the wisdom and teachings through oral stories.

Narrator: That is the way life was for all the First Nations of Turtle Island. Everyone had to work and share all the time in order to survive. All the First Nation people knew that Turtle Island was surrounded by water.

Elder: *(Standing by water looking across the ocean)* *(In a loud voice)* Someday a brother from across the water will come and live with us. We do not know what he looks like but he will be coming!

Narrator: It was foretold many times that the water would bring visitors. Then one day a ship appeared.

Ship appears and is carrying 3 people. Ship docks at beach area. First Nations gather in confusion as to what the ship is and who is coming to the beach.

First Ship Man: Aww it is been a rough journey but here we are in India.

Second Ship Man: Look at the Indians waiting to welcome us.

Third Ship Man: I must write this down in the Crown records.

(Pretends to write items in a book)

#1 First Nation – Tanisi (waves hand to say hi and then signals the shipmen to come closer)

As shipmen get closer

#2 First Nation – Awina Kiya? X 2 (What's your name)

Shipmen stand still - First Nation leaders walk around them

#1 First Nation – (As he is walking around the shipmen he asks)

Tanite oci Kiya? (where are you from?)

(continues to speak) Tawaw (welcome) (waves toward tipi village) Kanata (continues to wave and point to village)

Second Ship Man: I think he said welcome to our land and I think he called it Canada!

Third Ship Man: You must be right and I need to record this in the Crown records. (reads out loud) Indians call their land Canada.

#1 ,#2,and #3 First Nations continue to invite by body gestures to bring the Shipmen to their tipi village.

Narrator: When they all arrive at the tipi village the shipmen are invited to sit on the ground around a fire. The elder is introduced to the Shipman and he shakes hands with the shipmen.

Elder: (points to himself) Niya Maskwa – Kiya? (the 3 shipmen look confused) (the Elder shakes the hand of each Ship men)

First Ship Man: (Looking at the other ship men) I think he is telling us his name.

Narrator: This is how it was at the beginning of contact with each First Nation community. They would trade words until the First Nation learned to speak English and some Ship men learned to speak some First Nation languages.

Elder: When we gather we sit in a circle and we follow the same direction to move the circle from the left to the right like your clock. We share our food to welcome you to our family.

Second Ship Man: You have beautiful land in Canada – lots of trees, open sky, clean water, everything is so fresh!

Elder: Yes, we have everything we need on our Turtle Island to survive. Our Mother Earth gives us all we need on Turtle Island (hold Turtle Island rug up and point to each quadrant of the medicine wheel)

First Nation Hunter: (*Points to white quadrant*) This is to remind us of the air we breath and how the Grandfather winds visit us from each direction.

First Nation Hide Tanner: (*Points to Yellow quadrant*) This is to remind us of the heat and fire we are sent from the sun – it is the provider of life to all living things.

First Nation Medicine Gatherer: (*points to red quadrant*) This is to remind us of the ground and rocks we need to grow things. All life needs to eat from all that grows from the ground.

First Nation Storyteller: (*points to the black quadrant*) This is to remind us of the water we need everyday in our lives.
(*Lay the turtle island rug back on floor*)

First Ship Man: Our homeland is sick – there are too many people, it is overcrowded, short of food to feed everyone, diseases are killing many people, our water is turning into poison. We are wondering if we could come share your land?

Elder: That is what we do. We share the land among many nations. You bring your nation people here to share the land.

Third Ship Man: I need to write this down in the Crown book – The Indians agree to share the land of Canada.

#2 First Nation: You call your book the Crown?

Third Ship Man: Oh no – I write things in it to report to the Crown. Our leaders in our homeland are a king and queen and they wear a crown to show their leadership. We do everything for the king and queen.

Narrator: The Ship men get back into their ship and sail off. Many moons later (*four moons drift across the stage to signify the time that has passed*) the ship returns and the First Nation people gather to greet them. (*lots of Europeans coming off of the ship*) Soon more and more people come to Turtle Island. The First Nation people are surprised to see so many people coming from the ships.

#3 First Nation: What's ta ga oma – how many of you are there?

First Ship Man: I have a message from the Crown. Now that we are going to share the land of Canada the Crown wants to sign an agreement. It will be called a Treaty. It will be filled with promises to help each other as friends.

Elder and #1, #2, #3 First Nation – (*all at once*) Yes, we agree, we trust you, you are our friends!

Narrator: The first treaty signed is known as the peace and friendship treaty. An early agreement to share the land and in return the Crown offered items to the First Nation people for sharing the land.

First and Third Ship Men unroll the scroll so that the Second Ship Man can read the contents. First Nation people gather and sit to listen to the reading.

Crown Man: I represent the Crown and I will now read the Treaty agreement:

- We will share the land in peace and through our friendship.

There will be open trade.

- First Nation people will have the right to hunt and fish to provide for their families.
- The Crown will offer food to help the First Nation people.
- The Crown will offer guns and ammunition to the First Nation people.

If you agree, please sign on the line.

#1 First Nation: We do not read or write your language so I will sign in my way to represent my clan.

Narrator: If you ever have the opportunity to view the signatures of the early Treaties you will see animal shapes in the signage area. The animals represent the family name of the First Nation leader.

Elder: I cannot read your symbols and I am trying to trust you for the future of my children. We are the keepers of Mother Earth we want you to add to your paper that we do not want anyone digging deeper than a

spade into our Mother Earth. We only use and take what we need in order to keep our Turtle Island balanced.

Narrator: The Crown did promise to not dig deeper than a spade but the early settlers began to find coal, copper, silver and this caused the future Treaties to change the content of the promises.

#2 First Nation: When we sign this agreement we must follow with a pipe ceremony to honor our new relationship.

Pipe Carrier: Astum Api (*Come and sit down*) make sure to sit in a circle to honor our Mother Earth. (*takes the 2 pieces of the pipe out of the bag*) This is the stem and this is the bowl when I put them together it brings life to our ceremony. When the pipe is taken a part it will end the ceremony but this is for a Treaty relationship and we want the ceremony to last forever so I will not take the pipe apart.

Narrator: From that day on new Treaties were created and signed in agreement. Between 1871 and 1921 there were 11 Numbered Treaties they were negotiated covering the territories from present-day Ontario to Alberta as well as portions of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. There are six Treaty areas in Saskatchewan alone.

#3 First Nation: As each Treaty was signed the First Nation leaders had the following phrase included in the Treaty document. The Treaty is to last.....

(Everyone comes out and recites)

Everyone:as long as the sun shines (hold up a sun), as long as the water flows (wave blue cloth for water), and as long as the grass grows (hold grass picture up) That means forever!

Treaty Announcer: As long as we are all living on Canadian soil and on Treaty territory we are all Treaty People. We agreed to share the land so we can all have a better life!

(First Ship Man and Elder meet in front of everyone and shake hands)

Narrator: The handshake that took place so many decades ago is so symbolic to our expected relationship the Treaty has created. The Ship Man represents the Crown and any new Canadian from that day on and the First Nation represents every First Nation from that time on. So we are all a part of the Treaty process! Say it with me "WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE".

Eioksi - we are done!

