



## Teacher Guide:

# Student Introduction to the Seven Sacred Teachings School Program

### Aim of the Slideshow

- To introduce the Seven Sacred Teachings to K-3 students in an engaging and accessible way.
- To help students understand the importance of the Seven Sacred Teachings in their lives and in Anishinaabe culture.
- To lay the groundwork for future lessons on each of the Seven Sacred Teachings.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this slideshow, students will be able to:

- Identify and name the Seven Sacred Teachings.
- Associate each teaching with its corresponding animal.
- Explain the basic meaning of each teaching in their own words.
- Understand the importance of the Seven Sacred Teachings in living a good life.

### Support Materials for this Unit:

*Please have the 7 Sacred Teachings 4 Meanings Large Classroom Posters ready to put up on your classroom walls. The intent is that they will be put up on the walls of the classroom as each one is introduced*

- Sacred Teachings Binder for each Student
- 10 Dividers for each student to go into their Binders:
  - One for the Introduction Materials
  - One for Each Teaching
  - One for Tracking their general progress
  - One for Journaling
- A printout of the Sacred Teachings Story for each student [Here is the link to the print out.](#)
- A print out of the Seven Teachings page that the students will slide into their Binder Sleeves. [Here is the link to the binder cover page.](#)
- Regular sized Printouts of each Four Meanings posters that will go into the student binders. Here are the links:
  - [Respect 4 Meanings Sheet](#)
  - [Courage 4 Meanings Sheet](#)
  - [Seeking Truth 4 Meanings Sheet](#)

- [Honesty 4 Meanings Sheet](#)
- [Love 4 Meanings Sheet](#)
- [Humility 4 Meanings Sheet](#)
- [Wisdom 4 Meanings Sheet](#)
- [The 4 Meanings Overview for the Students](#)

- **The Goal of the Sacred Teachings Program.** [Here is the link](#)
- **Copies of the Module 1 Overview** [Here is the link](#)

### Slideshow Breakdown

#### **Lesson 1: What are the Seven Sacred Teachings**

##### **Slide 5: The 7 Sacred Teachings - A Video**

- **Narration:** "Let's begin by watching a video that provides an overview of the Seven Sacred Teachings. Remember, there are many different stories and interpretations of these teachings across First Nations, but the core values remain consistent."
- **Open-ended Questions:**
  - "What did you learn about the Seven Sacred Teachings from the video?"
  - "Why do you think these teachings are important?"

##### **Slide 6: The Seven Sacred Teachings - A Story**

- **Narration:** "Now, let's dive into a story about the origins of the Seven Sacred Teachings. This story tells us how the Seven Grandfathers, powerful spirits, observed the challenges faced by the Anishinaabe people and decided to share these teachings to guide them towards a good way of life." (Read the story to the students)
- **Open-ended Questions:**
  - "What did the Seven Grandfathers notice about the people's lives?"
  - "How did they choose to help the people?"

### **Slide 7-11: The Story Continues**

- **Narration:** (Continue reading the story, emphasizing the key points: the helper's search for a young boy, the boy's journey to the four quarters of the universe, the Grandfathers bestowing the teachings upon the boy, and the boy sharing this knowledge with his people.)
- **Open-ended Questions:**
  - "Why did the Grandfathers choose a young boy to learn the teachings?"
  - "What do you think the boy learned during his journey?"
  - "How did the teachings help the people?"

### **Slide 12-13: Why are we learning about the Seven Sacred Teachings?**

- **Narration:** "Today, we are fortunate to inherit the wisdom of the Seven Sacred Teachings. These teachings are an important part of our culture and can guide us to live good and happy lives. By learning and practicing these teachings, we can become better individuals, students, and community members." (Click to reveal each point on the slide and facilitate discussion around the questions provided in the Teacher Notes)
- **Open-ended Questions:** (Refer to the questions provided in the Teacher Notes for Slide 13)

### **Slide 14: Your 7 Sacred Teachings Program Binder**

- **Narration:** "To help us on our journey with the Seven Sacred Teachings, each of you will receive a special binder. This binder will hold your handouts, activities, and reflections related to the teachings. It's a place to keep track of your learning and personal growth." (Distribute binders and guide students on labeling the dividers as instructed in the Teacher Notes)
- **Open-ended Questions:**
  - "How can this binder help you learn and remember the teachings?"
  - "What kind of activities or reflections would you like to include in your binder?"

### Lesson 3: The Animals and what they Mean

- **Slide 16: The Seven Sacred Teachings Animal Spirits - A Story [Image 5]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the concept of animal spirits representing each teaching.
  - Narration: "The Seven Sacred Teachings are represented by special animals. Let's learn about them!"
- **Slide 17: Wisdom (Beaver) [Image 6]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the beaver as a symbol of wisdom.
  - Narration: "The busy beaver teaches us to use our knowledge and skills to help ourselves and others."
  - Open-ended Questions:
    - What does the beaver do that shows wisdom?
    - How can we use our wisdom to help others?
- **Slide 18: Love (Eagle) [Image 7]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the eagle as a symbol of love.
  - Narration: "The soaring eagle teaches us about love and compassion."
  - Open-ended Questions:
    - How do you think the eagle shows love?
    - How can we show love to others?
- **Slide 19: Respect (Buffalo) [Image 8]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the buffalo as a symbol of respect.
  - Narration: "The strong buffalo teaches us to respect all living things."
  - Open-ended Questions:
    - How does the buffalo show respect?
    - How can we show respect to nature and each other?
- **Slide 20: Bravery (Bear) [Image 11]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the bear as a symbol of bravery.
  - Narration: "The brave bear teaches us to face our fears and stand up for what's right."
  - Open-ended Questions:

- How does the bear show bravery?
  - When have you been brave?
- **Slide 21: Honesty (Sabe/Bigfoot) [Image 12]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the Sabe/Bigfoot as a symbol of honesty.
  - Narration: "The gentle Sabe teaches us to be truthful and honest."
  - Open-ended Questions:
    - Why is it important to be honest?
    - How can we be honest in our daily lives?
- **Slide 22: Humility (Wolf) [Image 13]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the wolf as a symbol of humility.
  - Narration: "The loyal wolf teaches us to be humble and appreciate others."
  - Open-ended Questions:
    - How does the wolf show humility?
    - Why is it important to be humble?
- **Slide 23: Truth (Turtle) [Image 14]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces the turtle as a symbol of truth.
  - Narration: "The wise turtle teaches us to always seek the truth."
  - Open-ended Questions:
    - How does the turtle show truth?
    - Why is it important to seek the truth?
- **Slide 24: The Seven Sacred Teachings Animal Spirits [Image 15]**
  - Explanation: This slide reinforces the connection between the animals and the teachings.
  - Narration: "Each animal reminds us of how to live a good life in balance with the Earth and each other."
- **Slide 25: A Video of an Elder Explaining what each animal represents**
- **Slide 26: A handout of the animals and the Teachings for their Binders**
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PprMo\\_IdzmVSFJN5C\\_w4FFc-GDVsobRn/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PprMo_IdzmVSFJN5C_w4FFc-GDVsobRn/view?usp=sharing)

## Lesson 4: Drawing the Animals

The following Activity may take a while but the drawings they make could be used as their dividers between each Teaching in a binder.

The drawing can be done in other parts of the day, on day at a time, or for homework.

OR

The other alternative might be for them to choose their favorite animal, draw it, and then share why it is their favorite.

Whichever you choose, the intent is for the children to understand the association between the animals and the values being taught

- **Slide 28: Drawing the Animals [Image 18]**
  - Explanation: This slide introduces an activity for students to draw the animals and reflect on the teachings.
  - Narration: "Let's draw the animals and talk about what they teach us!"
- **Slide 29: What animal represents Respect? [Image 19]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the buffalo and respect.
  - Narration: "What animal represents respect? That's right, the buffalo! Let's draw a buffalo and talk about what it means to be respectful."
- **Slide 30: What animal represents Courage? [Image 22]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the bear and courage.
  - Narration: "What animal represents courage? It's the bear! Let's draw a bear and talk about what it means to be courageous."
- **Slide 31: What animal represents Humility? [Image 23]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the wolf and humility.
  - Narration: "What animal represents humility? It's the wolf! Let's draw a wolf and talk about what it means to be humble."
- **Slide 32: What animal represents Love? [Image 24]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the eagle and love.

- Narration: "What animal represents love? It's the eagle! Let's draw an eagle and talk about what love means."
- **Slide 33: What animal represents Honesty? [Image 25]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the Sabe/Bigfoot and honesty.
  - Narration: "What animal represents honesty? It's the Sabe! Let's draw a Sabe and talk about what it means to be honest."
- **Slide 34: What animal represents Truth? [Image 27]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the turtle and truth.
  - Narration: "What animal represents truth? It's the turtle! Let's draw a turtle and talk about what truth means."
- **Slide 35: What animal represents Wisdom? [Image 28]**
  - Explanation: This slide focuses on the beaver and wisdom.
  - Narration: "What animal represents wisdom? It's the beaver! Let's draw a beaver and talk about what it means to be wise."

**Conclusion:** By incorporating storytelling, interactive activities, and personal reflection, this slideshow provides a comprehensive introduction to the Seven Sacred Teachings.