



## Turtle Island Conservation's Ontario Curriculum-based Educational Bundle Overview

**Aanii, She:kon and Welcome to Turtle Island Conservations Ontario Curriculum-based Educational Bundle!**

**Turtle Island Conservation (TIC) is a conservation programme that utilizes a First Nations cultural lens in the commitment to preserve water, and the biodiversity of wetlands creatures that inhabit these sacred spaces and places.**

**In honouring the traditional teachings of First Nation ancestors TIC has partnered with First Nation communities who still inhabit their traditional territories around the Great Lakes of Ontario to encourage environmental stewardship, awareness and action.**

**Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Traditional Knowledge, reflected through worldviews, beliefs, and stories that speak to the fundamental principle of ensuring sustainable relationships with the land has shaped the multi-layered components of this Educational Bundle.**

### **Educational Bundle Components:**

- **The Ways of Knowing Earth's Teachings**
- **Walking with Miskwaadesi or Walking with A'nó:wara**
- **Turtle Island Conservation Miskwaadesi and A'nó:wara Curriculum-based Activities Guide**
- **Ontario Curriculum-based Expectations Outline for teachers**
- **Species Identifier Laminated Cards In Ojibway (Phonetic /Double Vowel) or Mohawk**
- **Frog Calls CD in Ojibway or Mohawk languages**
- **Turtle Island Conservation Programme Pamphlet**
- **Teacher Survey**

**Online access to: "Sacred Spaces and Special Places" cultural map**

**Incentive: 13 Moons Calendar**

**These comprehensive components provide the user with many ways to facilitate awareness, educate with confidence, and utilize effectively the wisdom and knowledge of First Nations people located in the Ontario region that surrounds the Great Lakes watersheds within the classroom or community settings.**

- **The journey begins with building a knowledge base derived from the "**The Ways of Knowing Earth's Teachings**" book where the reader can obtain an introduction to the cultural perspectives of the Anishinaabe or Haudenosaunee peoples**

- Within the classroom setting or community setting a journey shared by a Grandmother and turtle invite the reader of "**Walking with Miskwaadesi or Walking with A'nó:wara**" to delve into the many issues faced by species at risk wetland animals.
- The **TIC Miskwaadesi and A'no:wara Curriculum-based Activities Guide** provides meaningful reinforcement and action-based opportunities to reinforce the learning obtained in the previous two books
- To grade with ease teachers are provided an **Ontario Curriculum-based Expectations Guideline** that clearly outlines how expectations are met for grades 4, 5 & 6
- To support experiential learning and encourage outdoor engagements the **laminated species identifier cards** provide a sturdy visual identification tool
- Once all types of monitoring, identification and activities have been undertaken the information gathered can be recorded online within a "**Sacred Spaces and Special Places**" cultural map
- The language based **Frog Calls CD** is an excellent tool for supporting language retention or introduction while learning the sounds of Ontario Species at Risk frogs and toads
- When all 13 Chapters and challenges have been completed the successful school can earn a beautiful customized 5 x 6 foot **13 Moons calendar** that brings together the Traditional teaching tool of a medicine wheel and the traditional teachings of the lunar calendar
- Each participant is asked to complete a **survey** response form and submit to Turtle Island Conservation upon completion

This Educational Bundle reflects the diverse nature of First Nations traditional knowledge as passed down for generations before us. All components are designed to work as a complete & complimentary unit

It is our sincere hope that you will find the contents useful and meaningful. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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***Miigwetch/ Niawa:kowa***



## Common Questions

### What is "The Educational Bundle"?

This Educational Bundle is a comprehensive First Nation teaching kit that will assist in providing easy to follow Ontario curriculum –based activities, web links, student worksheets and culturally relevant traditional knowledge of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples surrounding the Great Lakes in Ontario, Canada.

### What's it about?

*Walking with Miskwaadesi* or *Walking with A'nó:wara* is a story of the journey of a turtle and grandmother in the waterworld of their local wetland. The turtle and grandmother lead the student along a path of discovery connected to 13 challenges based on the 13 scutes (sections) of the turtle's shell. Each challenge encourages learners to think about, investigate and answer one or all of 13 challenges.

The 13 challenges introduce the eight Ontario turtle species; their habitats; neighbours and friends; wetlands, look at issues that are faced by the animals and plants that live in an aquatic environment; encourage students to become actively involved within their own communities-looking, listening, recording, appreciating, reflecting upon the life right outside their door. Traditional stories, teachings, and activities make the learning fun! It is anticipated that the class will decide upon a project to help their turtle neighbours and will then celebrate the completion of their learning and their projects with a feast honouring the turtle teachings.

### Relevance to Teachers

All components of this bundle are *user friendly*, whether you have a strong First Nation's cultural understanding or are simply a new learner to First Nations Traditional knowledge and Species at Risk turtles.

This bundle has been carefully constructed to address the Ontario Curriculum Expectations in the Junior Division (grades 4-6) in a multi-disciplinary manner, with a main focus on Science, Literacy and the Arts. The activities and lessons follow an *Inquiry Approach* to learning and provide a variety of ways for students to express their knowledge. The challenges may also be adapted for other grade levels.

This Educational Bundle is not an "add-on" to the classroom curriculum. It is intended to be used during the regular classroom day, as an opportunity to infuse First Nation traditional knowledge into the classroom setting. Educators will enjoy being able to choose activities and lessons that best "fit" the class while having many outdoor components that connect the class to their communities through exploration and research.