

Lessons on Integrating Indigenous
Knowledge Into Science Curriculum

Teacher PROMPTS



1. What are some challenges we can anticipate when integrating Indigenous knowledge, and how can we address them?
*Example: Resistance from parents might occur, but I can address it by providing resources that explain the scientific and cultural value of these practices.
2. Why is it important to include both Indigenous and Western knowledge systems in science?
*Example: It helps students understand that there are multiple ways of knowing and solving environmental challenges.
3. How can we use case studies to make Indigenous knowledge relatable to students?
*Example: We can present examples like the Haida Gwaii bird conservation project to illustrate Indigenous leadership in action.
4. How can we connect the concept of resilience to science lessons?
*Example: By showing how Indigenous communities adapt and thrive despite environmental and societal challenges.
5. What are some strategies to build relationships with Indigenous elders or knowledge keepers for our classroom?
*Example: Invite elders to share their knowledge and collaborate on lesson plans while respecting their time and traditions.
6. How can we teach students about the effects of colonization on biodiversity?
*Example: Use examples such as the introduction of invasive species during colonization and its impact on ecosystems.
7. How can integrating Indigenous knowledge combat stereotypes in our classrooms?
*Example: It shifts the narrative from one of trauma to one of strength and resilience, showcasing Indigenous contributions to science.
8. What role does reciprocity play in teaching environmental science?
*Example: It teaches students to give back to the environment, fostering sustainability.
9. How can we assess student understanding of Indigenous conservation efforts?
*Example: Through creative projects such as dioramas, podcasts, or infographics.
10. What connections can you make between Indigenous conservation practices and climate change solutions?
*Example: Highlight how practices such as cultural burning reduce wildfire risks and promote ecosystem health.