

LESSON FOUR: VALUES AND LESSON'S LEARNED FROM DR. ORONHYATEKHA'S LIFE

OBJECTIVES: (Time: Approximately 1-2 class periods)

A) CONTENT:

In reviewing Dr. Oronhyatekha's life and work, his legacy is extensive from material objects to how he was able to position himself within Victorian society as a Mohawk person. As the concluding lesson, students will be asked to identify what are Dr. Oronhyatekha legacies and how that knowledge can be used for the future development of positive working relationships between Native and non-Native society.

B) LEARNING MATERIAL:

Refer to Dr. Oronhyatekha's website and review the [article provided by Keith Jamieson](#).

C) PRE-REQUISITES:

Completion of lessons one - three.

D) INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

***I) Process Objectives:* Class discussion (60 - 120 mins. approx.)**

Students will have a class discussion to identify what is Dr. Oronhyatekha's legacy.

Examples of his legacy include:

- a) his educational pursuits and successes at a time when Native people would lose their status as a Native person if they pursued higher education;
- b) physical museum collection that placed First Nations front and foremost as sovereign nations;
- c) the buildings he created IOF Building, Orphanage, The Castle;
- d) through the IOF, Dr. O brought changes in the insurance industry - he provided affordable insurance for the average family, allowed women to be full members, turned the IOF from a fledgling organization to a highly profitable organization with increased memberships, and ensured that orphan children of members would be taken care of;
- e) Dr. O was also able to re-establish the link with the Crown beginning with the speech he gave when he was nineteen years old and through his work with the Fraternal organizations and his world travel;
- g) Through his life work he promoted respect and co-existence between people.

Teaching Points:

- ① Ask students to explain and provide some examples of what is a legacy.
- ① Ask students to identify what are Dr. O's legacies
- ① Prepare a list of Dr. O's legacies based on student responses.

Learning Objectives:

- ① Students will learn about what is a legacy.
- ① Students will be able to identify Dr. O's legacies through a review of their previous work on this unit.
- ① Students will demonstrate their ability to participate in class discussion.

II) Process Objectives:

When Dr. O was alive he was a dynamic force as he developed his skills and experiences in local, regional and international settings. Through his life work he ensured that no one would forget him when he passed on, yet until his work was brought to life through the Woodland Cultural Centre and the Royal Ontario Museum exhibit in 2000, Dr. O's life and was relatively unknown by the larger Canadian public. This fact is ironic, considering that Dr. O was able to position himself as a world leader in international business and moved within the inner circles of the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, associated with the Prime Minister Sir John A. MacDonald and Sir Wilfred Laurier, in addition to being able to re-establish Six Nations relationship with the Crown in England.

The question arises "why hasn't Dr. Oronhyatekha's life and work been recognized until 2000?" In going beyond Dr. O's life, from 1900 to the late 1960's First Nations people and communities became more oppressed by Canadian society through government legislation. For example First Nations peoples were not allowed to: raise money to pursue Land claims in the courts; participate in traditional ceremonies and dances; leave the reserve without a signed pass from the Indian Agent; or pursue a post-secondary education without proper authorization and upon become educated those persons could apply to become enfranchised or Canadians and would no longer be "Indian".

Native people and issues were seen as unimportant to the overall development of Canada. It was more important to have the remaining Native population become "civilized and Canadian". Interestingly enough, *Oronhyatekha had earlier in his life dreamt of a time when great suffering would descend upon the people of the Grand River. His dream concluded that while the river would be still, it "would run black with the blood of my people and be hidden by the low hanging branches of the weeping willow tree". At the time that he recounted this dream, it confused those he told for they were in prosperous times.*

Teaching Points:

- ① Have students identify the issues First Nations people have had to struggle against ie. Land claims, discrimination, education, economic and political issues.
- ① Have students identify some reasons why Dr. O's life and achievements were not promoted in Canadian history books.
- ① Lead students through a discussion and have them list what they can do now and in the future to change the interactions between First Nations and Canadian society, based on what they have learned about Dr. O's life.

E) EVALUATION: Participation in class discussion, peer and teacher evaluation