

Handout – Reflect and Communicate – Incorporation of Indigenous Ways of Knowing

1. Acknowledge Traditional Knowledge & Teachings

- Include the Anishinaabemowin name for the North Star (Polaris) and explain its significance in Indigenous navigation and storytelling.
- Share any Indigenous star stories or teachings they found during their research.
- Highlight how Indigenous Peoples have used the stars for wayfinding, seasonal changes, and survival for generations.

2. Show Respect for Oral Traditions & Storytelling

- Present their findings in a storytelling format, reflecting the oral traditions of Indigenous communities.
- If applicable, include a quote or insight from an Elder, Knowledge Keeper, or Indigenous scholar (with proper acknowledgment).

3. Connect to Land-Based Knowledge

- Explain how the sky and land are interconnected in Indigenous Knowledge Systems (e.g., how the stars guide movement across territories).
- Discuss how different Indigenous groups across North America might have their own interpretations of the North Star.

4. Use Indigenous Design Principles

- Consider incorporating Two-Eyed Seeing—blending Indigenous and Western perspectives—to explain how their North Star finder combines traditional navigation methods with modern technology.
- If they researched traditional materials, they could mention how Indigenous Peoples select materials based on sustainability, availability, and connection to the land.

5. Reflect on Learnings & Future Action

- Encourage students to reflect on what they learned from Indigenous perspectives and how it influenced their design choices.
- Discuss how they can continue to learn from and respect Indigenous Knowledge Systems beyond this project.