

# **Tribal Vision Dance**

**Presents:**



## **Visions of Turtle Island**

### **Study Guide**

**Discussions - Background Information- Classroom Activities**

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## What To Expect...

“Visions of Turtle Island” showcases First Nations powwow style singing and dancing. Included is a wealth of cultural and historical information. Dance and music are a lot more than just entertainment to us. They are our way of giving thanks through ceremony dances and our way of enjoying each others company through our social dances. We are going to be sharing both competitive style as well as social dances with you today.

- This performance can be loud
- This performance is fast moving and very colourful
- Remember and save your questions for the end of the show, there will be a live Q & A with members of Tribal Vision.



## About the Company

Tribal Vision is a First Nations family dance company based on the Six Nations Reserve in Ontario, Canada. The company presents the exciting dance and music of North America's First People's through multimedia shows and workshops with schools, festivals and special events. The Company is made up of Champion Dancers and a World Class singing champion. They love sharing their rich culture with people the world over.

## About The Dance and Music

The Dance Styles that will be presented are dances that you would see if you attended a Powwow. A powwow is a social gathering where First Nations people from all over North America (Turtle Island) come together to dance, sing, visit, arrange ceremonies, and give thanks to Creator. Powwows are not performances done for the public however the public is more than welcome to come and witness the celebrations that happen at them. The drum that you hear represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth and the songs that you hear most often are vocable melodies carried out over a drum rhythm.



## Pre-Show Discussion

- Have you ever been to a powwow before?
- What do you think First Nations dancing will look like?
- What do you think First Nations music will sound like?
- At what occasions do you and members of your family dance?
- At what occasions do you and members of your family sing/make music?
- How do you connect with nature?
- How do you/your family members show thankfulness?

## What to watch and listen for

- Notice the different types of dance outfits and designs
- Look for the different types of instruments used including the outfits of the dancers
- Listen for the types of music made and how the singer uses his voice to create a mood
- Look for how the different dance outfits suit the dance style
- Notice the intricate footwork of the dance
- Notice how the outfits suit the different styles of dance
- Notice the placement of feathers
- Listen for how the music sets a mood
- Listen for the different types of rhythms in the music



## Post-Show Discussion

- How did the music make you feel?
- Did different instruments make you feel different emotions?
- How is what you saw in the performance different from what you expected to see?
- How can you tell what type of song is used for each type of dance?
- What does the drum beat symbolize?
- Why did the dancers use Eagle feathers on their regalia?
- How did the outfits enhance the performance?
- What symbols or designs did you notice on the outfits? What do you think they meant?
- What was the main message of the performance?
- How can you, your family, your town or we globally achieve unity?

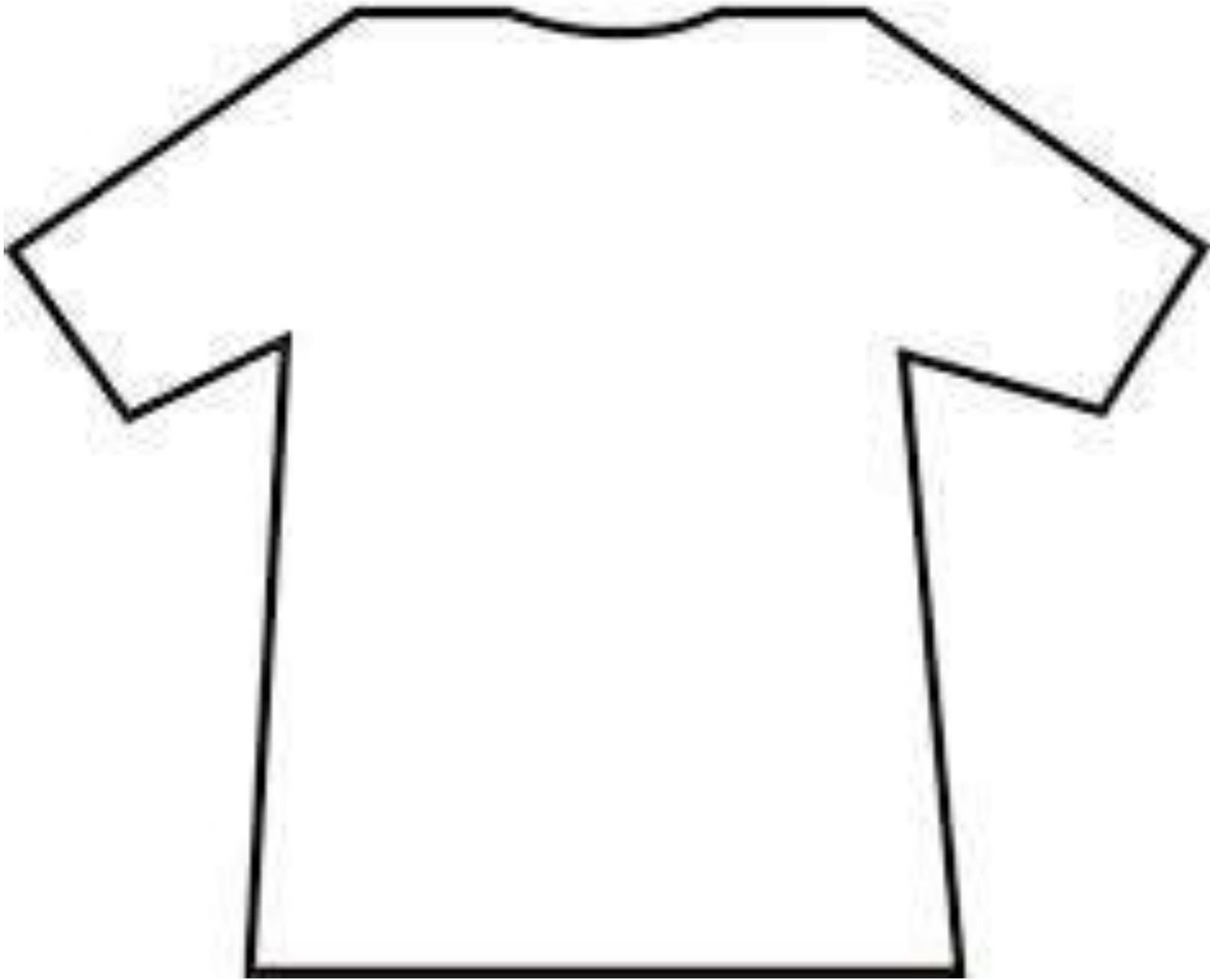


# Activities

Using this pattern, create designs, symbols and colours that would tell a story about you if you were to wear this shirt.

Try things like family crests, flags, favourite sports teams or activities.





# How To Make A Rattle

This is a Bull Horn Rattle. It is used in the social songs and dances of the Haudenosaunee People. Below are the steps to making a rattle that you can use in your class.



The materials you will need are a plastic bathroom cup, an 8" section of dowel rod, poster board, popcorn kernels and hot glue.



Once you have followed the instructions on the next page to make the rattle, you can use it to create your own songs using vocal melodies. The songs should follow a format of a lead (solo) a second (everyone repeats the lead) and a chorus. The song can be repeated as many times as you wish.

First you poke a hole in the center of the bottom of the cup that is just large enough for the wooden dowel to fit in.



Next, on the poster board you trace the opening of the cup and cut it out slightly larger. You then poke a hole in the centre of the cut out circle just large enough for the dowel rod to fit through.



You then put the dowel through the circle cap and the cup. Next you place 5 - 10 corn kernels in the cup and glue the circle cap onto the cup.



To glue the cap run a line of hot glue along the edge of the cup and gently place cap centred on cup. Next glue the top and bottom holes where the dowel comes through to ensure they don't tear open.



If you wish to decorate the rattle you need to cut one of the unused cups straight down the side and cut off the top and bottom rims. You now have a perfect template to cut out on paper that can be coloured or painted. This can then be glued onto the cup.



The completed rattle makes a very nice rhythmic sound that closely resembles that of the original Horn Rattle.



# Links And Other Resources

- [www.tribalvisiondance.com](http://www.tribalvisiondance.com)
- [www.woodland-centre.on.ca](http://www.woodland-centre.on.ca)
- [www.grandriverrafting.ca](http://www.grandriverrafting.ca)
- [www.goodminds.com](http://www.goodminds.com)
- [www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.ca](http://www.haudenosauneeconfederacy.ca)
- <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/foreducatorsstudents/>