

**We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the Lake Country Museum is situated, where this lesson was developed, is on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.**

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**Social Studies Grade 3: First Voices**

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| **Learning Experience** |
| Students can explore the Syilx language of *n’syilxcen* and participate in a discussion about the importance of Indigenous languages in Canada. |

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| **Objective** | Students will deepen their understanding of *n’syilxcen* through the *First Voices* website. Discussion about language preservation will highlight the importance of Indigenous languages as part of Canada’s cultural past, present, and future. |
| **Historical Reading** | For background information and language inquiries, contact the Sncewips Museum in West Kelowna.  <https://www.sncewips.com/language> |
| **Activity** | **First Voices**  The Syilx language, n’syilxcen, is one of over fifty Indigenous languages still spoken in Canada today. Many of these have been carefully recorded and a written alphabet developed. N’syilxcen is now taught as a second language in many schools in the Okanagan.  Discover the Syilx language at ***First Voices: http://firstvoices.com***. The ***First Voices*** website is a collection of tools and services designed to support Aboriginal people engaged in language archiving, language teaching & culture revitalization. The ***First Voices Language Archive*** contains thousands of text entries in many diverse Indigenous writing systems, enhanced with sounds, pictures and videos. A companion set of interactive online games is designed to present the archived First Voices language data in creative learning activities. Some language archives at ***FirstVoices*** are publicly accessible, while others are password protected at the request of the language community.  **Discussion Questions:**  Why is it important to preserve languages?  The Syilx people today have developed a written alphabet and dictionary of their language - why? |
| **Further Inquiry** | **Field Trip Suggestions:**   * Sncewips Museum * En’owkin Centre * Okanagan Heritage Museum   **Suggested Resources:**  Lake Country Museum & Archives (LCMA): Okanagan Syilx exhibits, website exhibition LCMA website resources: *http://www.lakecountrymuseum.com/collections/archives/*  LCMA website history index: *http://www.lakecountrymuseum.com/history/okanagancentreglacier*  Sncəwips Heritage Museum: https://www.sncewips.com/  Okanagan Heritage Museum: <https://www.kelownamuseums.ca/museum/okanagan-heritage-museum/>  ***Magic on the Water*** DVD, by Tracey Bonneau Okanagan Nation Alliance: *www.syilx.org*  ***Stories of our sqílxʷ Ways:2016*** : Okanagan Indian Band  ***Okanagan Geology***, by Murray Roed and John Greenough  ***Interior Pictograph Project***, by Bruce Goett: *www.interiorpicto.com* |