

James (Jim) Mishquart: The Powwow Trail

Before Watching the Video

Show this picture to your children:



Talk a bit about powwows. Have they ever attended a powwow? Where? Have they ever participated in a powwow? What part of this picture is most interesting to them? What kinds of roles do people have at powwows? (dancer, drummer, singer, MC, selling food, watching)

Explain to students that they will be watching a short video in which Jim Mishquart (from Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek or Rocky Bay First Nation) talks about how he got involved with powwows and the travelling he did as a young man. Jim also talks about raising his family on the powwow trail. Ask students to listen carefully for the places that Jim travelled.

Consolidation of Learning: After watching the video, have children complete the following activity sheet. For younger children, talk about the questions with them. It would probably be helpful to play the video a second time. There is also a transcript available.

Activity 1. James (Jim) Mishquart – The Powwow Trail

Listen to Jim's story and answer the following questions:

Jim introduces himself in Anishinaabemowin and then in English. Where is he from?

What is his Anishinaabe name? What is his clan?

When did Jim start singing and dancing powwow?

Where was the only powwow at that time?

Jim travelled with the Lyons dance group to promote powwows and the beauty of the Anishinaabe culture. Where did Jim travel?

What did Jim mean when he said he and his wife were a powwow family?

What does Jim think is happening with Anishinaabe culture these days?
