

8th Fire – It's Time (Episode 2)

Critical Thinking Challenges

1. Think about historical events that have impacted your family or people of your ethnic group. Why is it important to learn about historical contexts?
2. What is colonization, and how has colonization impacted Canada?

Viewing Questions

1. In this episode, we meet Howie Miller and his family. What experience did Miller have while growing up? How has this impacted his identity as an Aboriginal man? What does he do today? Why is this significant?

2. Howie Miller's son, Tyson Houseman, wants to be a role model for Aboriginal youth. Why does he want this, and how is he achieving this goal? How has he explored his own Aboriginal identity?

3. In approximately two minutes, Wab Kinew takes us on a walk through colonial history, exploring the events relevant to the relationship between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. Describe this walk through history. What are the major events? What historical documents are particularly significant?

4. Why was the Indian Act (1876) created by the Government of Canada? What were some of the controls placed on Status Indians as a result of the Indian Act? How did the repatriation of the Canadian Constitution in 1982 change the Indian Act?

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Viewing Questions (continued)

5. The Vancouver 2010 Olympics made a profound impact on many local First Nations, particularly those in the Whistler area. Discuss the impact on the Lil'wat Nation in terms of recognition, acknowledgement and economic gains. In terms of the rest of Canada, what is the significance of this fundamental relationship change?

6. We meet Paul Martin, former Prime Minister of Canada, who also served for some time as Finance Minister. He is also a very successful businessman in his own right. Why does he think the non-Aboriginals and Aboriginals should partner financially?

7. We meet Vanessa, a 32-year-old mother of six, who has just received a job offer from a financial institution. How has she moved beyond what some might have expected of her? Why is she participating in Nadya Kwandibens's "Concrete Indian" photo series?

8. The cover of the 8th Fire guide depicts one of Nadya Kwandiben's photos. What is she trying to achieve through the creation of the "Concrete Indian" series? How is the photo on the cover representative of the purpose of the series?

9. Throughout the episode, we see segments of a workshop presented by John Lagimodiere, owner of Aboriginal Consulting Services. What is his approach in his workshops? Initially, what are the reactions from participants? By the end of the workshop, how have their reactions changed?

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Viewing Questions (continued)

10. Discuss the differences between the experiences of Native Americans in the United States during colonization and the experiences of Aboriginal people in Canada during the same time period.

11. The celebration shown during Treaty Day is symbolic. Discuss some of the events of that day, and why some First Nations continue to celebrate this day.
