

Mary Two Axe-Earley: I Am Indian Again

Film Synopsis: Mohawk filmmaker Courtney Montour shares the powerful story of activist Mary Two- Axe Earley, who fought for more than two decades against gender discrimination in Canada’s Indian Act.

Age: 12-18

Link to Film: <https://www.dropbox.com/t/fce6w4YhIRGzdq1G>

MARY TWO AXE EARLEY: I AM INDIAN AGAIN UNIT OUTLINE

Lesson 01

What is the Indian Act?

Outcome: PA 9.3 Indicator: B

Using the creation and use of the Indian Act, students will begin to examine how Indigenous rights have been threatened on a systemic level, damaging Indigenous rights in contemporary Canada.

Lesson 02

Disenfranchisement of Indigenous Women

Outcome: PA 9.1 Indicator: G

Viewing Mary Two Axe Earley, students will discuss the disenfranchisement of Indigenous women, focusing on the loss of “Indian” status, caused by the Indian Act.

Lesson 03

Current Issues Faced by Indigenous Women

Outcome: PA 9.1 Indicator: F

This lesson will examine how the Indian Act continues to hurt Indigenous women. Students will look at contemporary issues like the MMIWC movement, the Highway of Tears, and the pay gap between Indigenous women and their Caucasian co-workers.

Remember to always preview
the film, prior to screening!

Lesson Plan: Mary Two Axe-Earley

Grade: 8-12

Subject: Social Studies

Topic:

The Indian Act and disenfranchisement of Indigenous Women

Themes:

Indigenous Issues, Structural Racism, Gender Discrimination

Curricular Connections:

PA 9.1 – Examine concepts of power and authority in the governance of the societies studied.
Indicator G.

Materials needed:

- Mary Two Axe-Earley: I am Indian Again Film
- Journal
- Pencil
- Activities Provided

Essential Questions:

What is the Indian Act?

How was Canadian government involved in enfranchisement of Indigenous women?

Why were their gendered discriminations in the Indian Act? What was the effect of this?

Structure / Activity:

- **Set:** As a class, we will complete the “knowledge” portion of a KWL chart, with what we know about the Indian Act.
- **During:** Students will answer the guided notes provided.
- **After:** The class will add to the original KWL chart with what they learned through the film, as well as questions they still have.

Activities:

KWL Chart

Guided Notes

Self reflection (written)

Mary Two Axe Earley: I Am Indian Again Guided Notes

1. Why did Mary lose her status as Indian? What else did she lose because of doing this?
2. What Act allowed for Indigenous women to lose their status? Was this Act across Canada?
3. What human rights movement was Amry a significant part of?
4. Why did they want women removed from Indigenous land?
5. Why did Mary say Indigenous women are treated less than the “white person’s dog”?
6. How was Mary treated following her meeting in Ottawa, in the Parliament building?
How did she react to this treatment?
7. How many years did it take for Mary to get her status as Indian back?
8. Why was the Indian Act discriminatory against Indigenous women? Explain. *Answer after viewing the film.*

Student Self-Reflection

Instructions: Answer the question, “How does your position (gender, age, class status, race, and/or religious beliefs) impact your experiences? How does that make you feel?”.

Yorkton Film Festival Film Lessons

(All information is required)

Email this form to Taynika at coordinator@yorktonfilm.com

Name	
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Lesson Used	
Number of Viewers	
Comments	

