

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Honouring Water: An Indigenous Perspective**  
**A Research Project through the Medicine Wheel of Learning**

**Task:** In pairs or triads, consult the following media sources to complete the ‘Medicine Wheel of Learning’ graphic organizer and complete the research/writing prompts based on a particular resource.

**Read the article ‘Water Song: Indigenous Women and Water’ by Kate Cave and Shianne McKay**

1. Which ‘care-takers’ of water or ‘water-keepers’ are leading water conservation efforts in Indigenous communities in Canada? Why is this the case?
2. Ardith Walkem states that “Water is the lifeblood of the land and of the Indigenous peoples and cultures that rely upon it.” What does this mean?
3. Who and what are the ‘Mother Earth Water Walkers?’ What is their origin story? What do they do today?

**WEST**  
*reason*  
“figure it out”  
knowledge

**Read children’s book ‘The Water Walker’ by Joanne Robertson**

1. What does Nokomis love about Nibi?
2. How is Nokomis called to action? Who does Nokomis go to for help, and what do they do?
3. Sneakers, skirts, copper pail, and migizi staff. How do they fit into the story? What did Nokomis hope to accomplish?
4. Nokomis reminds us that without Nibi there is no life. How is that true?
5. At the end of the book, Nokomis asks “What are you going to do about it?” What can you do as a person? What can we do as a class or community?

**NORTH**  
*movement*  
“do it”  
wisdom

**Listen to the song ‘Nibi (Water) Song’ told by Beatrice Menase Kwe Jackson**

1. Who wrote this song? What is the story behind the song?
2. What are the song’s lyrics in Ojibwemowin and their English meaning?
3. Doreen and her grandson, Mashkoonce, sang this song every morning to school to thank the water. Why do you think they do this? Is there something that you are thankful for each morning? Why is important to be thankful for things we have?

**SOUTH**  
*time*  
“relate to it”  
understand

**Watch the documentary ‘Water: The Sacred Relationship’ by Native Counselling Services of Alberta**

1. Spiritual Elder Leo Pard states: “When you respect water, that water will respect you back. If you don’t respect water, that water will take you – that’s when you drown” (2015). Explain what you think this means.
2. What is the difference between Dr. Suzanna Bayley (a Western scientist’s) understanding of a wetland and Len Benson (a traditional Cree man’s) understanding/view of the very same wetland? Use specific examples from the documentary to make your point.

**EAST**  
*vision*  
“see it”  
awareness