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Reflection-January 16, 2019

 Overall, today’s lesson ran fairly smooth. I began with an introduction of acknowledging that we were on the territory of the Lheidli T’enneh peoples. I asked my students if they had heard this statement before and if they knew what it meant. We next reviewed the Lheidli T’enneh peoples and their territory and some of the local parks and land. The students helped put together a Know/Wonder chart with the Learn portion to come following the lesson. We talked about one of the parks in Prince George called cottonwood island park and the carvings that are on the trees within. The students were engaged in the conversation and enjoyed using the maps I brought for reference to look at as well as pictures of the carvings from cottonwood island park. Next I instructed my group of students on carving soap bars with popsicle sticks, wooden rods, paper clips, and pencils. Students were asked to think of someone they respect in their life and to carve the soap bar for that individual. They were instructed to think of a background story to accompany their carvings. We carved the soap bars for most of the remaining lesson and then finished off with sharing, cleanup, and exit slips. I felt like the students were engaged with the content and enjoyed the activity that accompanied the lesson. As far as learning new information, the students had a hard time remembering info at the end of the lesson so for future lessons I will think about asking them more questions and prompts throughout the content part of the lesson. The Know/Wonder chart helped students to think about what they were learning and I think it would have been better to have stopped every few minutes and added more to the chart as we went. I could have also brought in more information on the Lheidli T’enneh peoples, but when I was planning my lesson I was concerned about overwhelming my students. I know now the students are capable of learning even more content in the classroom. Next time I want to do a lesson that is more focused on resources because my students wondered about the kinds of food the Lheidli T’enneh peoples ate.

 Knowing the names of my students came much easier this time and I have begun to build some relationships with the students. I felt like my group of students wanted to learn and trusted me more this week as opposed to the week before when we were just beginning to get to know each other. Something I need to work on is not stressing over whether I am teaching the students the whole time and give them time to inquire, grow, and learn independently. I want to strive more towards an inquiry based lesson for the next lesson that I plan.