

Aboriginal Circle

JUNE 21 IS TIME TO CELEBRATE!

On June 21, Canada celebrates National Aboriginal Day. This date is very significant for Aboriginal people because it is when they celebrate the summer solstice (longest day of the year). This makes it the ideal occasion to recognize Aboriginal peoples' important contributions to Canada, both past and present. Many celebrations and pow-wows are organized on this special day. A pow-wow, which means "to dream" in the Algonquian language, is an ancient Aboriginal tradition. Today's pow-wows are still at the heart of Aboriginal people's spiritual celebrations.



During National Aboriginal Day, you can take part in dozens of activities. You can dance to the

sound of drums, sing traditional Aboriginal songs, listen to Elders' tales, visit exhibits displaying art, bark canoes or snowshoes, as well as join in trapping, hunting and fishing workshops. You can also attend a peace pipe ceremony, where an Elder lights the pipe of friendship, and take the opportunity to taste special or sacred foods, like wild rice, corn on the cob, caribou meat or fish.



Would you like to celebrate National Aboriginal Day? Ask your parents to find out about the activities that are planned in your area.

Did You Know That...?

Dancing is an Aboriginal tradition that goes back to the time when warriors used dance to tell their battleground stories. Hunters also adopted this tradition; after returning from a successful hunt, they acted out the adventure of chasing game animals by whirling about and performing acrobatic feats.

If You Seek...

You Will Find

Do you want to know more about Aboriginal people? Or are you looking for information for your school projects? Visit our Web site at www.inac.gc.ca. Happy surfing!

