

Hoop Dancer Teddy Anderson

Study Guide for Schools

• Elementary and Middle School Version • Last Updated August, 2017

Teddy Anderson will be coming to your school to do a presentation and/or workshop for your students. Teddy provides a high quality 45 minute performance designed to entertain, educate and inspire your students and staff. The run down of the performance includes: (1) A native prayer; (2) a song on the native flute; (3) two hoop dance demonstrations; (4) detailed explanations of the stories behind each dance in line with message of respect for all people; (5) An audience participatory hoop dance and (6) a Q&A period. This study guide is designed to help teachers prepare students for the performance/workshop.

Themes:

- Physical Education
- First Nation's Culture
- Dance
- Social Studies
- Story Telling
- Anti-Bullying
- Community
- One People
- History



Teddy Anderson's Background:

Teddy Anderson has traveled the world to over 20 countries sharing a message of unity and inclusion. Drawing upon the traditional hoop dance Teddy dances with up to 30 hoops. While Teddy is not Indigenous by blood he carries the cultural blessing from Lakota hoop dance teacher Kevin Locke to share and teach the hoop dance. Teddy's background is diverse (culturally adopted Tlingit, European, Persian) and uses this diversity to bring greater cultural unity in his presentations and workshops.

The Hoop Dance:

The Hoop Dance is a First Nation's cultural dance. It is a unique, energetic and colorful dance. Hundreds of years ago, the traditional healers of various tribes used the hoop dance as a way to pray, meditate and become stronger in spirit. These healers, using a single hoop, would perform the dance to help facilitate spiritual healing. More recently, hoop dancers have begun to use higher and higher numbers of hoops, adding a complexity to the ritual that demands much more of performers. In Teddy's performance he uses as many as 30 hoops at a time.

Today, each hoop dancer develops, builds and grows their unique performance as a reflection of their equally unique life story. Dancers have been known to use their performance to address issues relevant to both themselves and their community. Teddy Anderson, believing strongly in the unity of all people, uses his hoop dance to speak of this in a poignant and touching way that frequently moves his audiences to warm compassion and a shared vision.

The Medicine Wheel- An important Symbol:

The Medicine Wheel is a circular shaped symbol with typically 4 colors: black, white, red and yellow. This symbol represents different things for different people. Teddy believes the Medicine Wheel represents equality and unity of all people.

Teddy's Message:

Teddy has performed in 20 countries in the world teaching a message of unity and love for all people. Teddy teaches that each person needs to be proud of their heritage and see themselves as a global family. Teachers can use this message of speak about bullying, racism and the need to for all students to get along.

After Performance Activities:

Elementary- Students are encouraged to draw a picture about what they saw in the hoop dance. Students are welcome to pass this on to their families and friends.

Secondary- Students are encouraged to do a creative writing piece answering the following question: "If the world acted and saw each other as members of one human family, what would be the most significant notable change?"

Performance Requirements:

- A large flat surface (12x12m) preferably in a large semi-circle, 1 outlet, 1 bench and access to the performance space at least 40 min before show time.