

Indigenous Hip Hop: Tru Rez Crew — I'm A Lucky One

Activity Information

Grade Appropriate Level: Secondary

Duration: one class period

Materials: Access to internet. *Warning: some explicit language in video.* Student worksheet provided.

Objective: Explore Indigenous history told through oral stories and music of youth.

Prescribed Learning Outcomes:

[Social Studies 12: BC First Peoples.](#)

Using appropriate **protocols**, interpret a variety of sources, including local stories or oral traditions, and Indigenous ways of knowing (holistic, experiential, reflective, and relational experiences, and memory) to contextualize different events in the past and present (evidence)

- Students are expected to know: **role of oral tradition for B.C. First Peoples** (stories, songs, music, and dance as forms of narrative)

Suggested Instructional Strategy:

1. **Review the summary and article about the Indigenous Hip-Hop band that won awards at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.**

SUMMARY:

Tru Rez Crew Big Winners At Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

At the fifth annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in Toronto, a number of Indigenous bands were big winners, such as Ontario's [Tru Rez Crew](#), honoured with the Best Rap or Hip-Hop Album award for their recent release, *Ain't No Turnin' Back*.

The group was also awarded Best Song Single for "I'm A Lucky One".

The [video](#) for "I'm A Lucky One" was shot entirely on the Six Nations of the Grand River Indian Reservation one hour south of Toronto. The song is about being



thankful for your family and friends, and about making the right decisions in life. It's about looking towards the future and trying hard to succeed, no matter the circumstances. "Even though we may have grown up poor on the rez we can still succeed if we try..." — Jonathan Garlow, Producer of Tru Rez Crew.

The clip was directed by Randy Redroad, and was produced by PJ Thornton. The production company, [Big Soul Productions](#), is an indigenous-owned company based in Toronto.

2. Watch the video I'm a Lucky One [here](#). (Some explicit language)

3. Use the worksheet provided below to explore the video messages and discuss in class.

Related Weblinks:

Band Website:

<https://www.reverbnation.com/trurez>
[CBC indigenous hip hop playlist](#)
[YouTube channel](#) of Calgary-based indigenous rapper Drezus.

Artist Bio

To sum up the members of Tru Rez Crew it would have to be charisma, Native pride and wisdom with an abundance of talent. The members are a great chemistry of different struggles to make each song. Such songs as "I'm A Lucky One", "Bring It On", "The Dark Truth", "Gotta Keep Ya Head Up" "You Didn't Say Goodbye" and "Sweet Daddy Sass". Tru Rez has a real conscience approach, this is to make people realize what Natives as a people have gone through, but in reality their music is a slogan of "Keep The Native People Together". After the release of their 2 LP's (2000's It's Begun and 2003's Ain't No Turnin' Back) they took credibility on and off stage, also landed many tv spots, numerous air play, online record labels have inquired their music. Such interviews with talk shows across Canada and the U.S.A. But their biggest accomplishment is two Aboriginal Awards for best song/single and best Hip Hop album. But if you look passed all the fame and fortune they are what every Native individual is, real and down to Earth. With each and every song it drives them closer to their dreams. What makes Tru Rez a unique group of musicians is that they can enhance the production, by not only using keyboards and samples, they can pick up instruments and employ them into Hip Hop fashion so the twist is versatile. Now as 2009 rolls in Tru Rez will come out on top and be the realest and the best that they can be... we focused maan!

Assessment Strategies:

Evaluation of the activities will be based upon the following:

- participation in class discussions/activities
- evidence of thoughtful reflections
- Did the messages evoke any feeling or opinion in students?
- Did students clearly articulate the mood of the video and the main messages?



Some music video assessment tools here:

- [Music Video Assessments](#)
- Music Video [Assessment sheet](#)
- [Video Assessment idea](#)

Student Worksheet Below

Who, What , When, Where, Why ?



Indigenous Hip Hop: Tru Rez Crew – I'm a Lucky One

❖ Who are Tru Rez Crew?

❖ What's their message?

❖ Where are they from?

❖ When did they win an award, and what was it?

❖ What is significant about the video production company?

❖ Why do you think they won?

After watching their video, give your opinion on their music, lyric, video and message. Imagine you're a music critic or a Grammy Award judge. What are the strengths and weaknesses of this video? Would you buy this CD? Why or why not? Was the message effectively conveyed?