

Is this an appropriate First Nations resource?

A check-list for educators

Who is the creator of the resource?		
Questions to ask:	What am I looking for?	What do I need to do next?
<p><i>Is the creator a First Nations person?</i></p>	<p>If the resource has been created by a First Nations person, or in collaboration with First Nations people, it should clearly advise the reader of the creator's identity and area of origin. This may be noted in the front of a text, on the website or info section of a content creators page (e.g., on social media or resource selling site).</p> <p>Hot tip: if a book has an Aboriginal Studies press logo you're heading in the right direction*.</p>	<p>If it's not clear who created the resource, then don't use the resource. If you think it may have been created by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, reach out and ask.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>Has the resource been created in consultation with First Nations people?</i></p>	<p>This should be clearly noted in a text, on a website or a resource.</p>	<p>If it's not clear that the resource has been created in collaboration with First Nations people, then don't use it.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>Is the material appropriate to your local context? Would your community find the information appropriate?</i></p>	<p>Acknowledgements, foreword, supporting statements or endorsements by local, regional or state First Nations groups and organisations.</p>	<p>If you have questions about the resource that has been endorsed by First Nations groups or organisations, then you should contact them.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
When was the resource created? Is the content up to date?		
Questions to ask	What am I looking for?	What do I need to do next?
<p><i>Is the resource current?</i></p>	<p>If the resource has been created before the 1990s, check if there has been a more recent reprint of an earlier edition.</p>	<p>Check that the resource uses appropriate language and terminology and has been created by or in collaboration with First Nations people.</p> <p>Notes:</p>

<p><i>It's not current, but I believe it's still relevant and has value beyond its context.</i></p>	<p>If you think your resource has historical relevance, think about the perspectives/language used/historical context you will need to unpack. E.g., using a primary source about the Stolen Generations that uses language like half-caste and Aborigines is relevant in context.</p>	<p>What resources will you use to support how you unpack the selected resource?</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p>Does the resource support First Nations cultures, histories, and perspectives?</p>		
<p>Questions to ask:</p>	<p>What am I looking for?</p>	<p>What do I need to do next?</p>
<p><i>Does the resource align with currently preferred language and terminology?</i></p>	<p>Use of terms like Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Indigenous, First Nations – all of which are capitalised. Pluralised peoples, histories, cultures etc., to show that all First Nations peoples are not homogenous.</p>	<p>If it uses terms like 'the Aboriginals' 'natives', 'half-Aboriginal', 'part-Aboriginal', 'full-blood', 'ATSI' without historical context, don't use it and find another resource.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>Does the resource contain racist connotations or use stereotyping?</i></p>	<p>Phrases or images that show First Nations people as simple or backward, especially when referring to traditional society. Stereotypes about skin colour, ways in which First Nations people speak or act, that all First Nations people are good at sport etc., First Nations people were nomadic.</p>	<p>Do not use unless materials countering these views are also presented. For example, when using negative portrayals as examples of racist and stereotyped reports.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>Does the resource generalise about First Nations peoples?</i></p>	<p>Statements like the women sat around and cooked, only men hunted, all men played didgeridoos, Aboriginal people were nomadic. Does the resource exclude knowledge about Torres Strait Islander peoples? Does the resource refer to First Nations cultures as something of the past rather than as continuing cultures?</p>	<p>Avoid using resources that generalise about First Nations peoples or ignore the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>Does the resource give a range of perspectives of First Nations peoples? Does it show the diversity and complexity of First Nations cultures?</i></p>	<p>The resource provides a range of perspectives or examples to drive its main ideas. For example, referring to the knowledges and ideas of different language or nation groups and doesn't group ideas about First Nations peoples as being a homogenous group.</p>	<p>Avoid using resources that generalise about First Nations peoples or ignore the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures.</p> <p>Notes:</p>

<p><i>Do the images and illustrations used portray First Nations peoples appropriately? Are they culturally appropriate? Are they accompanied by captions that identify the origin of the source or names of First Nations people, group/s, or nation?</i></p>	<p>Do any accompanying images identify First Nations people/groups/Country appropriately? Do the images show First Nations peoples as caricatures? Do the images stereotype First Nations people by only showing them as dark-skinned? If the resource uses clipart that depicts First Nations peoples with cultural markings such as ochre paint, jewellery, or clothing, has the creator acknowledged the origins of such markings and do they have permission to show these aspects of culture?</p>	<p>Avoid resources that depict First Nations peoples negatively unless materials countering these views are also presented. Select resources that contain images that identify the origins and context. Use resources that contain cultural clipart with caution. Seek advice from your local community if you are unsure.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>Is the resource accurate and truthful?</i></p>	<p>The resource aligns with ideas and opinions of my local First Nations community. It has been endorsed by First Nations community groups and organisations.</p>	<p>If this is not clear, check in with your local community.</p> <p>Notes:</p>
<p><i>What history does the resource require you to have an understanding of? How will you find your information?</i></p>	<p>Notes:</p>	

*Not all books published by the Aboriginal Studies Press have been written by First Nations people, but they have been written in collaboration with First Nations people.