



Pelly Banks First Nation (Ross River)

K-12 Social Studies

Dorothy Smith



Contact Person: Community Education Liaison Coordinator in Ross River

Activities

Moose hide tanning; Storytelling; Sewing and Beading: Residential School Workshops: Traditional Parenting; Traditional Hunting and Fishing Laws; Seasonal Camps, Traditional Justice, Traditional Plants and Medicine, Clans and the Potlatch System.

YFN Biography

Dorothy Smith was born January 3rd, 1942, at Pelly Banks and raised on the land, learning how to trap and fish for food and tan hides for clothing. She is of the Wolf Clan and resides in the community of Ross River, Yukon Territory. Dorothy speaks Kaska fluently and is one of the influential advisors on the Grade 5 Yukon First Nation history textbooks. Like generations before her, Dorothy learned the traditional way of life by listening and respecting elders and family members, and has become highly regarded in her community for her little brown bag of abundant lessons on her First Nation's traditional ways.

Presentation

Dorothy welcomes the opportunity to share her knowledge and traditional skills whether it is moose tanning or storytelling, as it is her lifetime goal to teach the children about Yukon First Nations' history and culture, that has been passed on from generation-to-generation. She will teach all she knows to the students and at the same time emphasizes the extreme importance of preserving the Kaska culture and language.

Notes to Teachers

Time Frame: Discuss with Dorothy, depending on the activity

Materials: School to provide all materials for the lessons.

Parents Helpers: Yes, call parents or volunteers ahead of time and discuss with Dorothy what they will be doing to assist.

Transportation None

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