

MacLeod Nine Productions Présente - Presents
Un film de G. Scott MacLeod / A film by G. Scott MacLeod

D'après un conte de /
A story by Mike Burns

**LEARNING
GUIDE**

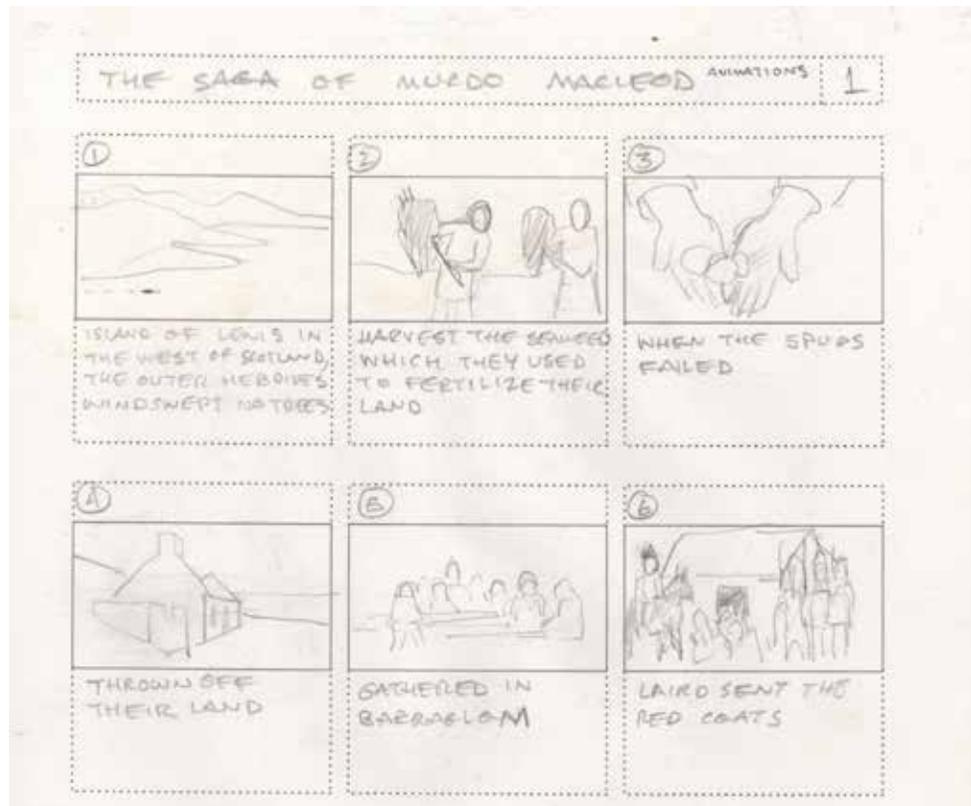
**The
SAGA
of MURDO
MACLEOD**

And his first contact with the Abenaki

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Objectives

The Saga of Murdo MacLeod and his first contact with the Abenaki tells the story of a group of Scottish immigrants to Lower Canada in the 1830s. This learning guide is designed to help educators raise awareness about the experience of early immigrants to Canada, the role of First Nations peoples in their survival and the obstacles faced by both groups, historically and today.



Before Screening the Video



- 1 What do you know about your family's arrival in Canada? Did they come in the recent past or have your ancestors been in this country for a long time?
- 2 What do you know about Canada's First Nations peoples, particularly the Abenaki?
- 3 Why do you think people came to North America during the 1800s? Were they coming for something new or fleeing something at home?
- 4 Have you ever been somewhere where you could not communicate with anyone in your native language? What would you do to survive in that circumstance?
- 5 How did people travel great distances around the world in the 1800s? Why was this the preferred method of travel?
- 6 Think about the last TV show or movie you saw that portrayed First Nations peoples. Do you think the portrayal was realistic or a stereotype?



After Screening the Video

- 1 Why did the MacLeod clan leave their homeland? Would you have done the same thing?
- 2 What were the conditions on the ship during their passage?
- 3 What role did First Nations people play in the survival of the MacLeod clan in Gould? How do you think the lives of First Nations peoples have changed in the years since?
- 4 How did the narration and animation work together to tell this story? Did you hear specific elements from the Scottish and First Nations cultures in the soundtrack?
- 5 Why did the landowner give each of his Scottish “crofters” an axe before their trip to Canada? What role did trees play in the Scottish immigrants’ survival?
- 6 We still have thousands of immigrants coming to Canada every year? How do their experiences differ from that of the Scottish immigrants in this film? How might they be the same?





Follow-up Projects

- 1 Research the immigrant story of one branch of your family tree. Tell the story to the class.
- 2 Conduct some research to find out which First Nations groups historically lived in the region where you live now. Do those groups still live there? If not, where do they live? Tell the class about your research.
- 3 Grosse Ile and Pier 21 were two major landmarks in the history of immigrants to Canada. Research one of these sites and report to the class on its significance.
- 4 Write a few journal entries as if you were one of the MacLeod clan on the journey described in the film.
- 5 The woman shown drumming in the film is modelled after world-renowned Abenaki filmmaker and performer Alanis Obomsawin. View one of her films online at www.nfb.ca and do a short review for the class.
- 6 Write a poem, a story, an illustration or a piece of music inspired by the film.





**MAC
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NINE**
PRODUCTIONS

MacLeod Nine Productions

2319 Hampton Ave #1
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H4A 2K5

www.macleod9.com
www.thewateroflife.ca
macleod_nine@hotmail.com
514 487 8766

Design by

TagTeam

www.studiotagteam.com