

REFLECTION PDF · HERITAGE FAIR PROJECT



Reflection on Learning

Heritage Fair Project

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Our Learning Journey

Through this project, we learned that Indigenous leadership in Canadian history is often more complex than we initially understood. Dr. Oronhyatekha showed that leadership is not only about resistance, but also about education, strategy, and influence within institutions.

How This Project Changed Our View

This project changed how we view history because it highlighted that Indigenous individuals were not only affected by systems, but also helped shape them. Before this project, we did not know about the scale of Dr. Oronhyatekha's impact — the Temple Building, the 250,000 members of the IOF, the orphanage, the open membership policies. These are not small achievements. They are the actions of someone who transformed institutions from within.

The Two Keys Framework

We developed a two-key framework for understanding his story: Identity — who he was, shaped by Haudenosaunee values, cultural strength, and resilience — and Impact — what he achieved through institutional transformation and lasting social benefit. We found that neither key works alone. Understanding his identity makes his achievements feel inevitable. Understanding his impact gives his identity its full meaning.

Skills and Process

We also learned the importance of research, organization, and presenting information clearly. Building the triptych, website, research paper, and evidence binder taught us how to communicate complex historical information to different audiences. We had to think about design, evidence, and argument at the same time.

Final Reflection

Overall, this project helped us better understand Canadian history and the important role Indigenous leaders played in shaping it. Dr. Oronhyatekha's story is not a supplement to Canadian history. It is a correction — and a challenge to do better. With two keys — Identity and Impact — we unlock a more complete, more honest, and more inclusive understanding of the country we live in.