**Reflection – We Live Here**

**Lesson Reflection**

* This lesson was a good segue into what we have been working on for the past two weeks – learning about community, the animals that live in our community and our rivers, and our local Indigenous bands.
* This lesson involved a sharing/talking circle which was an excellent way to engage the students and to continue to get to know my students. We were able to connect more personally as we shared stories about ourselves, what each animal teaches us, and how this has meaning to them. Students loved learning about the animals that live near our rivers and what they teach us.
* I also incorporated a talking stick that I made, which helped to make the discussions go very well, with students being very respectful of each other as they took turns to speak. They were also very curious about how I had made this talking stick, sharing with them how creativity is important in our everyday lives.
* Students did a very good job of doing their activity book, taking time to complete it and putting a tremendous effort to draw and write their responses. It was amazing to see the detail that they put in, looking very proud of their work.
* Overall, I felt very good about this lesson, seeing the students having fun, collaborating, and interacting with each other. I was also very involved with the students – always circulating and learning new things about them. I felt the lesson had great flow and was well-paced, making it easy to adhere to the timelines that I had planned for.
* As a learning opportunity, I could have incorporated a movement break. A good way to have done this would have been asking the students to do their movement break as they transitioned from the carpet sharing circle to their desks. For example, they could have acted out their favorite chosen animal or incorporated a song to get them moving.

**Overall Practicum Reflection**

* I am really connecting well with my coaching teacher, my practicum evaluator, and all my students. I have embedded the first peoples' principles in all of my lessons, which I find extremely valuable by being able to focus on the connections with families, communities, peoples, land and place.
* I have been so grateful for the feedback I have and continue to receive from my coaching teacher and my practicum evaluator, including the resources they share with me which enhances my teaching practice and my overall approach. I feel so lucky to have such a supportive network around me.
* I am learning a great deal about lesson planning, in particular how to make them more succinct and how to really focus on the big idea(s) and relating that big idea back to the essential/guiding question.  I knew this from the course work, however putting it into practice makes it so much more relevant and easy to do. I am also gaining a much greater appreciation of focusing on the end goal(s) of learning, really making use of the backward design in my lesson plans.
* I am also doing a deeper dive into the closure aspect of my lessons, realizing that this is such an important component for students. I am also pay special attention to my timing and pacing of my lessons, ensuring I keep on track. Keeping on track can be challenging when a person has so much FUN!!