

**MMIWG**

READING COMPREHENSION

***Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls***

## Red Dress Day

**Instructions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions in your workbook.

Red Dress Day is an annual event that takes place on May 5th. It is also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The day is meant to honor the lives of Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or have been murdered. The red dress has become a symbol of the movement, representing the violence that Indigenous women and girls face.

Indigenous women and girls in North America are disproportionately affected by violence. According to a report by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada, Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than non-Indigenous women. In the United States, Indigenous women are also at a higher risk of violence than non-Indigenous women.

The red dress has become a powerful symbol of the movement to raise awareness about the violence against Indigenous women and girls. The red dress represents the lives of the women and girls who have gone missing or have been murdered, as well as the ongoing issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

Red Dress Day is a way for people to show support for Indigenous women and girls, as well as their families and communities. By wearing a red dress or displaying one, people can raise awareness about the issue and honor the lives of those who have been affected.



### Reading Comprehension

1. What is Red Dress Day?
2. What is the significance of the red dress in the movement to raise awareness about violence against Indigenous women and girls?
3. Why are Indigenous women and girls in North America at a higher risk of violence than non-Indigenous women?
4. How can people show support for Indigenous women and girls on Red Dress Day?

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# Significance of Red Dress Day

**Instructions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions in your workbooks.

Red Dress Day is an important event that brings attention to the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls. Learning about this day is crucial for several reasons.

Firstly, Red Dress Day is a way to honor and remember the lives of Indigenous women and girls who have been affected by violence. By learning about the significance of the red dress, people can gain a deeper understanding of the impact that violence has on Indigenous communities and the need to address this issue.

Secondly, learning about Red Dress Day can help to raise awareness about violence against Indigenous women and girls. Many people may not be aware of the disproportionate rates of violence faced by Indigenous women and girls. By learning about Red Dress Day and its significance, people can become more informed about this issue and work to raise awareness in their own communities.

Thirdly, learning about Red Dress Day can help to foster empathy and understanding towards Indigenous peoples and their experiences. The ongoing violence against Indigenous women and girls is rooted in historical and ongoing colonization, systemic racism, poverty, and lack of access to resources and services. By learning about Red Dress Day and its significance, people can gain a deeper understanding of the systemic issues that contribute to violence against Indigenous women and girls and work towards addressing these issues.



### Reading Comprehension

1. Why is Red Dress Day an important event?
2. How can learning about Red Dress Day help to raise awareness about violence against Indigenous women and girls?
3. What are some of the systemic issues that contribute to violence against Indigenous women and girls?
4. How can learning about Red Dress Day help to foster empathy and understanding towards Indigenous peoples and their experiences?

## KEY FACTS

# Red Dress Day

Red Dress Day is an annual event that takes place on May 5th. Here are some key facts about Red Dress Day:

1. Red Dress Day is also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
2. The red dress has become a symbol of the movement to raise awareness about the violence against Indigenous women and girls.
3. Indigenous women and girls in North America are disproportionately affected by violence. According to a report by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada, Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than non-Indigenous women. In the United States, Indigenous women are also at a higher risk of violence than non-Indigenous women.
4. Red Dress Day is a way for people to show support for Indigenous women and girls, as well as their families and communities. By wearing a red dress or displaying one, people can raise awareness about the issue and honor the lives of those who have been affected.
5. Red Dress Day originated in Canada but has since been recognized in other countries, including the United States.
6. Red Dress Day events include ceremonies, marches, and other activities to honor and remember the lives of Indigenous women and girls who have been affected by violence.
7. Red Dress Day is an opportunity to draw attention to the systemic issues that contribute to violence against Indigenous women and girls, including historical and ongoing colonization, systemic racism, poverty, and lack of access to resources and services.
8. Red Dress Day is an important day for Indigenous communities and their allies to come together and work towards ending violence against Indigenous women and girls.





## ACTIVITIES

# Red Dress Day

There are several things you can do on Red Dress Day to honor Indigenous women and girls and show your support for the movement to end violence against them. Here are some ideas:

1. Wear a red dress or display a red dress in your window or on your front lawn to raise awareness about the issue.
2. Attend a Red Dress Day event in your community, such as a ceremony, march, or vigil, to show your support for Indigenous women and girls.
3. Learn about the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the systemic issues that contribute to it. Read books, watch documentaries, and listen to podcasts by Indigenous authors and activists.
4. Educate others about the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls and the significance of Red Dress Day. Share information on social media or organize a discussion with your friends and family.
5. Donate to organizations that support Indigenous women and girls, such as shelters or advocacy groups.
6. Support Indigenous-owned businesses and artists by purchasing their products and art.
7. Advocate for policy changes that address the systemic issues that contribute to violence against Indigenous women and girls, such as improving access to resources and services.

Remember, Red Dress Day is about honoring the lives of Indigenous women and girls who have been affected by violence and working towards ending this violence. By taking action on this day, you can show your support and contribute to the movement for change.



## No More Stolen Sisters

**Instructions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions in your workbooks.

No More Stolen Sisters is a movement that was started in Canada to raise awareness about the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. The movement was founded in response to the disproportionately high number of Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing or been murdered in Canada.

Indigenous women and girls in Canada are disproportionately affected by violence. According to a report by the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Indigenous women are 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than non-Indigenous women. The report also found that Indigenous women are often the targets of violence that is racially and sexually motivated.

The No More Stolen Sisters movement aims to raise awareness about the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls and to put pressure on governments and institutions to take action to address the issue. The movement is led by Indigenous women and their allies and is focused on advocating for justice for the victims and their families, as well as working towards ending the violence.

One of the key goals of the No More Stolen Sisters movement is to ensure that the voices of Indigenous women and girls are heard and that they are involved in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. The movement also seeks to address the root causes of the violence, such as colonization, systemic racism, and lack of access to resources and services.

The No More Stolen Sisters movement has gained momentum in recent years and has spread beyond Canada to other countries, including the United States. The movement has inspired other initiatives and organizations that aim to address the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls.

### Reading Comprehension

1. What is the No More Stolen Sisters movement?
2. Why was the movement started?
3. What is the issue that the movement aims to raise awareness about?
4. What are some of the key goals of the No More Stolen Sisters movement?
5. What are some of the root causes of the violence against Indigenous women and girls that the movement seeks to address?
6. Has the No More Stolen Sisters movement spread beyond Canada? If so, where?
7. Has the No More Stolen Sisters movement inspired other initiatives and organizations? If so, what are some examples?

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# Increasing Safety

**Instructions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions in your workbooks.

Indigenous women and girls in many countries, including Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, face disproportionately high rates of violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and murder. To increase safety for Indigenous women and girls, it is important to take a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of the violence, as well as to implement specific measures to protect and support Indigenous women and girls.

Here are some ways we can increase safety for Indigenous women and girls:

- **Address the root causes of the violence:** Many Indigenous women and girls experience violence as a result of systemic issues such as poverty, discrimination, colonization, and lack of access to resources and services. Addressing these root causes through policy changes and community initiatives can help to prevent violence and support Indigenous women and girls.
- **Increase awareness and education:** Raising awareness about the issue of violence against Indigenous women and girls and educating the public about the causes and impacts of this violence is key to making change. This includes education in schools, community organizations, and workplaces.
- **Ensure culturally appropriate and accessible services:** Indigenous women and girls often face barriers to accessing services such as shelters, counseling, and healthcare due to systemic racism and cultural barriers. Ensuring that services are culturally appropriate and accessible can help to improve outcomes for Indigenous women and girls who have experienced violence.
- **Strengthen legal protections:** Indigenous women and girls face unique legal barriers when seeking justice for violence, including jurisdictional issues and a lack of culturally appropriate legal services. Strengthening legal protections for Indigenous women and girls can help to improve access to justice and hold perpetrators accountable.
- **Support Indigenous-led initiatives:** Indigenous-led initiatives, such as community-led healing circles, can be effective in supporting Indigenous women and girls who have experienced violence. These initiatives should be supported and resourced to ensure their effectiveness.
- **Involve Indigenous women and girls in decision-making:** Ensuring that Indigenous women and girls have a say in decisions that affect their safety and wellbeing is crucial. This includes involving Indigenous women and girls in policy development and program planning.
- **Support Indigenous self-determination:** Supporting Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty is key to addressing the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls. This includes supporting Indigenous-led initiatives to address poverty, discrimination, and lack of access to resources.

By taking a holistic approach that addresses the root causes of the violence and implementing specific measures to protect and support Indigenous women and girls, we can work towards a future where Indigenous women and girls can live free from violence.

### Reading Comprehension

1. What are some of the types of violence that Indigenous women and girls face?
2. What is a holistic approach to addressing violence against Indigenous women and girls?
3. What are some of the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls?
4. How can education and awareness-raising help to increase safety for Indigenous women and girls?
5. What are some of the barriers that Indigenous women and girls face when accessing services?
6. What are some of the legal barriers that Indigenous women and girls face when seeking justice for violence?
7. Why is it important to involve Indigenous women and girls in decision-making?
8. How can supporting Indigenous self-determination help to increase safety for Indigenous women and girls?

## MMIWG | READING COMPREHENSION

### Jaime Black

**Instructions:** Read the following passage and answer the questions in your workbooks.

Jaime Black is a Métis artist who is the founder of the Red Dress Project, which aims to raise awareness about the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada. Black was inspired to start the Red Dress Project after reading about the murder of Amber Redman, a young Indigenous woman who was killed in 2005. Black was struck by the fact that Redman's case received little media attention, and she felt that Indigenous women and girls were not being valued or protected in Canadian society.

Black decided to create a visual art installation that would draw attention to the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. She chose to use red dresses as the symbol for the project, as red is a traditional Indigenous color and is often associated with healing and power. Black collected red dresses from thrift stores and arranged them in public spaces, such as parks, to draw attention to the issue.

The Red Dress Project quickly gained attention and spread across Canada and beyond. Black has said that the project is meant to be a "visual reminder" of the Indigenous women and girls who are missing or who have been murdered. She hopes that the project will encourage people to take action to address the root causes of violence against Indigenous women and girls and to support their families and communities.



#### Reading Comprehension

1. Who is Jaime Black and what is the Red Dress Project?
2. What inspired Jaime Black to start the Red Dress Project?
3. Why did Black choose to use red dresses as the symbol for the project?
4. How did the Red Dress Project gain attention and spread across Canada and beyond?
5. What is the purpose of the Red Dress Project, according to Jaime Black?