

# Teacher Guidance and Disclaimer

A fact file to help your students learn about Red Dress Day and the meaning behind it. Red Dress Day takes place on May 5<sup>th</sup> of each year and is a way to honour the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two spirit people. MMIWG2+ continues to be a strong issue in Canada with Indigenous women being 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than non-Indigenous women. We encourage you to bring themes of gender equality, acting with love and kindness and honouring the matriarchs in your life. We recognize that not every class is ready or should be having conversations about the ongoing murder and violence towards Indigenous people and encourage you to meet your students where they are at.

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We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. This resource contains potentially sensitive and/or upsetting topics that may emotionally impact on students you use it with due to their experiences in their past. It is your responsibility to consider whether it is appropriate to use this resource with your students. If you do use this resource, it is your responsibility to ensure that appropriate support is available for anyone affected.

Thoughtful consideration has been taken to ensure we pay respect to Indigenous peoples in our resources, with Truth and Reconciliation as our mission.



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# Red Dress Day Fact File



In 2010, a Metis artist named Jaime Black, began an art project that would shake the nation. Jaime Black began the REDress Project, an art installation where she hung hundreds of empty red dresses to represent the countless missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people in this country. Red was chosen because it is both a symbol of vitality and violence. Jaime Black was also taught that red is the only colour spirits can see and can be used to connect spirits with their loved ones.

“Through the REDress Project, the spirits of the missing or murdered women and girls stand with us here today, giving us courage, strength and clarity — leading us forward on the path to REclaim our sovereignty as Indigenous women.” -

**Jaime Black**

The first art installation was at the University of Winnipeg in 2011, and gained tons of attention. She received hundreds of donated red dresses from around the country. Since 2011, the REDress Project has become a permanent exhibit at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and has been exhibited at many other galleries, universities and buildings.

Since then, people have taken it upon themselves to spread the message of awareness by hanging red dresses outside their homes, schools and businesses. The red dress has become a symbol for MMIWG2+ across Turtle Island.

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