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# Welcome Figures, Honoring Gestures/Welcoming/Thanking Lesson Plan

By: Lena Jones, HCC Education Curator

*This project correlates to the exhibits of Welcome Figures, A Life Built on Stories, and Environment. 3rd to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

diləx<sup>w</sup> łushuyləp (This is what you folks will do.):

## 1) Song (Optional)

In Coast Salish teachings, all good work begins with a song or prayer. The class or individual students can sing a song before the lesson begins.

- A song is considered a gift. It can be any song the students, or some of the students, or even one of the students is willing to share. It can be sung to your friends, to your family, or to yourself.

## 2) Honoring Gesture

Watch the presentation of “Raising Our Arms in Thanksgiving”. This was done by Tulalip tribal youth as part of Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian “Thanksgiving Revisited” to explain the Coast Salish honoring gesture.

Pay attention during the credits to see Monique raise her arms in thanks, and see if you can copy the gesture. This honoring gesture is also used to welcome people when their group visits and is a common practice among Coast Salish gatherings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3waeR6wClo>

List at least three reasons listed in the film that raising our arms in thanks signifies:

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### 3. Honoring Practices

Why is it important to understand the social manners of other cultures? One of the reasons is because our country is in itself multicultural, meaning we are culturally diverse and have many people who are or whose ancestors are from other countries living in the United States. Our elders say “Everyone comes from a great people”, so we should recognize other cultures and the beauty of their social manners.



*1Red Eagle Soaring Singing Honor Song*

Choose a country or culture and research their values on their social greetings. Also, use the link below to copy and paste where the country or culture is on the map. Copy and paste the section “Where is . . . ?” Link: <https://geology.com/world/>.

Example:

The Philippines.

Google Search: The Philippines, Honoring Gestures

Found: <https://vovworld.vn/en-US/cultural-rendezvous/mano-or-pagmamano-an-honoring-gesture-in-filipino-culture-800534.vov>

“Mano” or “Pagmamano” Honoring Gesture: An honoring gesture performed in the Filipino culture as a sign of respect for an elder and a way of requesting a blessing from the elder. The person bows toward the elder, taking his/her hand and pressing it on the forehead. The person may ask, ‘Mano po” or “May I have your blessing?” “Po” is used as a sign of respect when addressing someone older. Respect for elders stems from the importance of family in Filipino culture.

Geology.com Map: Clicked on “Philippines Map”, scrolled to “Where is Philippines?”



Country/Culture: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Found: \_\_\_\_\_

Honoring Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Description and Value of Honoring Gesture: \_\_\_\_\_

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Geology.com Map:

Where is . . . ?

#### 4. Filming Honoring Gestures (Optional)

Aaron Jones, one of the directors of the “Raising Our Arms in Thanksgiving” film, noted he often filmed plants as his backdrop because they generally go unnoticed but provide a strong foundation for our existence. Plants produce oxygen; filter the air; provide all life with food, shelter, and medicine; protect water by controlling soil erosion; provide an example of living in diversity and balance; and give us beautiful scenery.

If you filmed a short film of the honoring gesture from the country/culture you chose, what scenery would you use as the backdrop, and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Teachers Section:

ditəx<sup>w</sup> łushuyləp (This is what you folks will do.):

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### 2) Honoring Gesture

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Pay attention during the credits to see Monique raise her arms in thanks, and see if you can copy the gesture. This honoring gesture is also used to welcome people when their group visits and is a common practice among Coast Salish gatherings.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3waeR6wClo>

List at least three reasons listed in the film that raising our arms in thanks signifies:

Thank you for your prayers, your work.

I show good feelings for you, your family.

I recognize your good work, respect your prayers, your family, your people.

I thank your spirit and the Spirit above for being in this sacred place together, wherever we may be.

### 3. Honoring Practices

Why is it important to understand the social manners of other cultures? One of the reasons is because our country is in itself multicultural, meaning we are culturally diverse and have many people who are or whose ancestors are from other countries living in the United States. Our elders say “Everyone comes from a



2Red Eagle Soaring Singing Honor Song

great people”, so we should recognize other cultures and the beauty of their social manners.

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Geology.com Map: Clicked on “Philippines Map”, scrolled to “Where is Philippines?”



Country/Culture: [Student choice]\_\_\_\_\_

Website Found: \_\_\_\_\_

Honoring Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Description and Value of Honoring Gesture: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Geology.com Map:

Where is . . . ?

#### 4. Filming Honoring Gestures (Optional)

Aaron Jones, one of the directors of the “Raising Our Arms in Thanksgiving” film, noted he often filmed plants as his backdrop because they generally go unnoticed but provide a strong foundation for our existence. Plants produce oxygen; filter the air; provide all life with food, shelter, and medicine; protect water by controlling soil erosion; provide an example of living in diversity and balance; and give us beautiful scenery.

If you filmed a short film of the honoring gesture from the country/culture you chose, what scenery would you use as the backdrop, and why? [Subjective]\_\_\_\_\_

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