

# My National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Postcard

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Walking Together  
Written by Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall  
and Louise Zimanyi  
Illustrated by Emily Kewageshig

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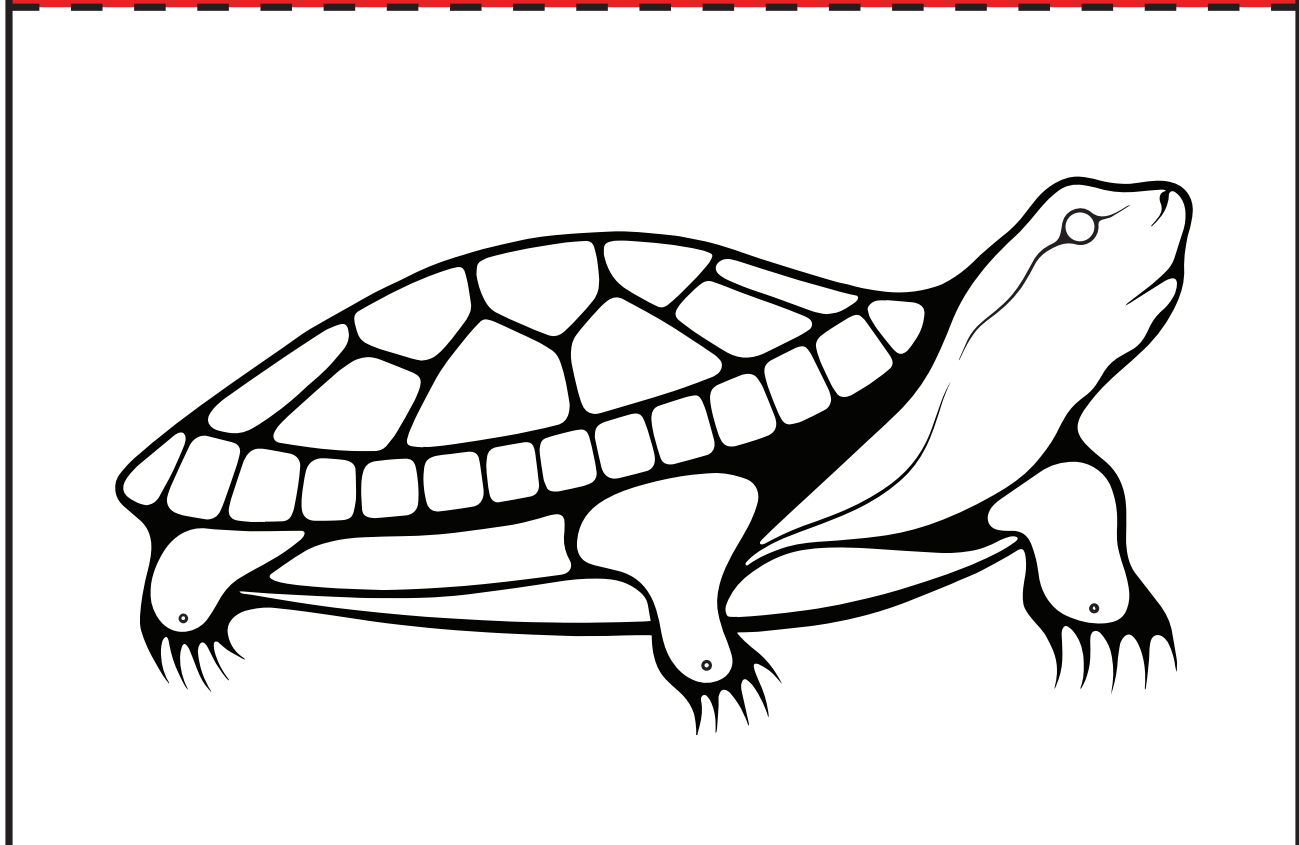
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**Instructions:** Use the attached activity sheet to open up a discussion with students about the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.\* While students work on the activity sheet, have them consider that thinking about the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation can be a way to think about reclaiming Indigenous languages and naming.

Instruct students to colour in the turtle on the card and make sure to include orange. Explain why orange is important to use.\*\* Have them then use the back side of the card to write out their thoughts on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For example, ask the students what they can do in their community to help move towards reconciliation. (Depending on their age, you may suggest they write individual words that come to mind instead of sentences.) After they've finished, have them cut out the card and fold along the dotted line to make it a standing card they can keep on their desks or display collectively in the classroom.

**Extra:** Ask students if they would like to share what they wrote.

## \*What is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation?

Every year, September 30 marks the day that honours children who never came home from residential schools, along with the Survivors and their families. It is a public commemoration to ensure that we never forget the tragedies of residential schools and how they have impacted generation after generation. Acknowledging this painful truth is a part of finding reconciliation.

## \*\*Why Orange?

Prior to the legislative action that made the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation an official federal statutory holiday, an Indigenous-led grassroots movement started Orange Shirt Day on September 30. The orange shirt has been used as a symbol of the cultural genocide and the stripping of freedom and self-esteem that Indigenous Peoples have faced for generations. Wearing the colour orange is also used as a means to honour the Survivors of residential schools and remembering those who were lost.

## Calls to Action and other helpful links:

**Calls to Action:** [https://ehpmh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](https://ehpmh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

**UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages:** <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/indigenous-languages.html#:~:text=Optimistic%20estimates%20suggest%20that%20at,or%20seriously%20endangered%20by%202100>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/national-day-truth-reconciliation.html>

<https://orangeshirtday.org/>

**Phyllis Webstad's Story:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuW4WbekhY>