



Effigies in the Badlands

Of Alberta

DISCLAIMER:

- All information presented is merely for educational information purposes. The content is intended to be used for informational purposes only. It is not intended as a substitute for professional education advice. The information obtained and shared is conducted by amateur videographers. The information obtained in this presentation has been verified to the best of our abilities and knowledge; we cannot guarantee its accuracy. Should you decide to act on any of the information provided, please refer to references, and conduct further research.

Brief Overview of this Lesson Plan



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Present a lesson plan titled: Effigies in the Badlands of Alberta.

Objectives of Lesson Plan:

- To explore effigies and their significance to Blackfoot language and culture
- To understand the importance of Napi in the Blackfoot language and culture
- To understand the importance of the Thunderbird in the Blackfoot language and culture

Alberta Education Blackfoot Language and Culture Program of Studies outcomes

Focus is on the language – learning and retention of Blackfoot words/phrases.
Culture is secondary to this lesson Plan.

Resources

Effigy Defined

- An effigy is a an often life-size sculptural representation of a specific person, or a prototypical figure.
- Effigies come in several different forms including cairns, walls and petroforms, as well as shaped individual stones and boulders.
- For this presentation the effigies we focused on are rock configurations found in Blackfoot Territory which are laid down on the earth depicting an animal or human that are significant to our culture.





Video Introduction

Elders:

Veronica Smith – prayer at site

Joanne Yellow Horn – offering at site

Shirley Crow Shoe – on audio

Turtle Effigy

“Napioa, the Old Man, floated upon a log in the waters, and had with him four animals: Mameo, the fish; Matcekipis, the frog; Maniskeo, the lizard; and Spopeo, the turtle. He sent them down into the waters in the order named, to see what they could find. The first three descended, but never returned; the turtle, however, arose with his mouth full of mud. Napioa took the mud from the mouth of the turtle, rolled it around in the hollow of his hand, and in this manner made the earth, which fell into the waters, and afterward grew to its present size.”(Maclean 1893:165)





Napi Effigy

“Old Man was traveling about, south of here, making the people. He came from the south, traveling north, making animals and birds as he passed along. He made the Milk River and crossed it, and being tired, he went up on a small hill and lay down to rest. As he lay on his back, stretched out on the ground, with arms extended, he marked himself out with stones, - the shape of his body, head, legs, arms, and everything. There you can see those rocks today.” (Grinnell 1907:137)

Thunderbird Effigy

“The Blackfeet have a tradition that the Thunder-bird was once overcome by a snowstorm and descended into their camp. It was taken to the lodge of the head chief, where many of the tribe assembled. Its feathers had many colours like the rainbow and its claws were long and green. When it suddenly flew from the lodge, the [people] rushed from out and saw it disappearing among the storm clouds.” (McClintock 1968:519-520)



Secrets Carved in Stone



“Resting on the edge of a valley above the Red Deer River at the entrance to Dinosaur Provincial Park sits an ancient glyphstone. The boulder, covered in etchings carved by First Nation People, was originally found west of the park, but was relocated in 1958 by local residents who wanted the stone to be protected, yet still accessible to everyone. The exact meaning of the petroglyphs is still unclear, but two common theories involve landmarks for travel or sacred offerings before and/or after a bison hunt. There have been at least thirteen of these stones found across Alberta.”

Video Focus Points

- What do you know about the Turtle, Napi, Thunderbird Effigies?
- What do you know about the Secrets Carved in Stone?
- The Blackfoot language used in video can be translated to English.

Blackfoot words:

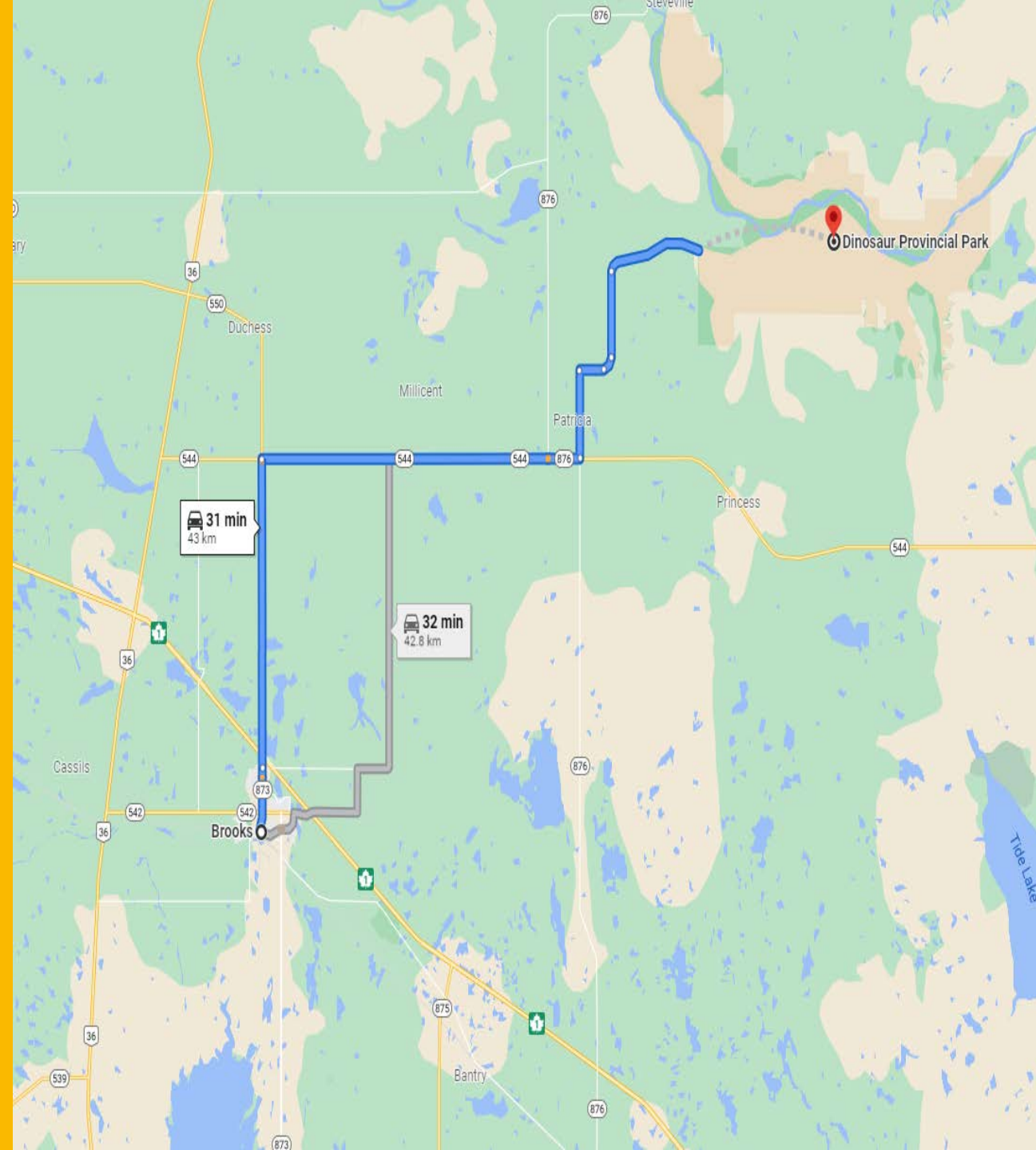
- Blackfoot words:
- Cliffs - miistaksskoistsi
- Thunderbird - Ksiistsikomiipi'kssiiwa
- Rivers – niitahtaa
- Oldman River – Omahkinaithahtaa
- Red Deer River – Ponokaissiisaahataa



Map

Directions:

- Brooks Alberta
- Hiway 873 Northbound
- Hiway 544 Eastbound
- Hiway 876 Northbound
- Destination Arrival:
 - ❖ Dinosaur Provincial Park



SUMMARY

In keeping to the Treaty Based Education focus, this can be used as a land based teaching/learning opportunity for both language and culture. The land is where our students (children & adults) learn their culture and validate who they are.

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I hope you enjoyed the
presentation and gained
knowledge.

Thank you for attending.