**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**
What combination of factors both natural and manmade is necessary for healthy river restoration and how does this enhance the sustainability of natural and human communities?

**GUIDING QUESTION:**
If you were to create a totem pole for the Elwha River what combination of current and historical symbols would you include in it?

**LESSON OVERVIEW:**
Students will work in small groups to research Totem Poles their history, meaning and symbolism. Then in the same small groups students will construct a totem pole for the Elwha River out of found objects that represents the historical and modern significance of the river and its restoration. Groups will then give a short presentation to introduce, explain and justify their totem pole.

**TIME NEEDED:**
Two Class periods

**MATERIALS:**
- Pencil/handouts
- Computer access
- Art supplies – paint, glue etc.
- Items for construction – cardboard, milk jugs/cartons etc.

**PROCEDURES:**
1. Review essential question, introduce guiding question.
2. Review and discuss the factors necessary for a healthy river, and the history and importance of the Elwha River. Here’s a web site for review from American Rivers: [http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AMR_elwharestoration](http://www.americanrivers.org/site/PageServer?pagename=AMR_elwharestoration)
3. Have the students do a little research for background on totem poles. Here are some good totem pole links:
Have groups brainstorm ideas for their Elwha River Totem pole. Tell them that based on their knowledge and scholarship, they should come up with historical and contemporary symbols for their Elwha Totem Pole. They must justify all of their choices.

When students have a plan, let them gather supplies and create. Totems should be constructed of found objects so no cost is involved.

When Totem Poles are finished have students present the project and explain their choices of symbols.

Take pictures and send them to Olympic National Park, Education Specialist, 600 E. Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362. We would love to see your projects!

**ASSESSMENTS:**
- Give points for the handouts
- Totem pole rubric

**WASHINGTON STATE STANDARDS:**

**ARTS:**
1. **EALR 3:** The student communicates through the arts (dance, music, theatre and visual arts).
   a. **Component: 3.1:** Uses the arts to express and present ideas and feelings.
   b. **Component: 3.2:** Uses the arts to communicate for a specific purpose.

**READING:**
1. **EALR 2:** The student understands the meaning of what is read.
   a. **Component 2.3:** Expand comprehension by analyzing, interpreting, and synthesizing information and ideas in literary and informational text.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:**
1. **EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS** The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, form, and evaluate positions through the processes of reading, writing, and communicating.
   a. **Component 5.2:** Uses inquiry-based research.
   b. **Component 5.4:** Creates a product that uses social studies content to support a thesis and presents the product in an appropriate manner to a meaningful audience.
Totem Poles

Fill in the columns below with facts you have researched about totem poles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Symbols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Use the chart below to brainstorm historic and contemporary symbols for your Elwha River totem pole. (write or draw)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Symbols</th>
<th>Contemporary Symbols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Storm Symbol" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Modern Storm Symbol" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Create your historic storm here:

Create your modern storm here:
1. You are going to need four to six symbols for your totem pole. Use the chart below to list at least eight symbols from your brainstorming session add the reasons you chose those symbols and how they relate to the Elwha River also tell if the symbol is historic, contemporary, or both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Historic or contemporary?</th>
<th>Justification: How does your symbol relate to the Elwha River?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Circle the symbols, some historic, some modern, in the chart that you will use 4-6.
3. What materials will you need? Remember your materials should be found objects and art supplies from your classroom.

__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Have fun, cooperate and make something really cool, then take a picture and email it to us – we might publish it on our web site. Don’t forget to tell us about the symbolism of your totem pole and what materials you used in its construction. Have fun! We can’t wait to see your creations.

Check with your teacher for a grading rubric and a deadline.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>(4)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Symbols</strong></td>
<td>Exceptional response</td>
<td>Above average response</td>
<td>Average response</td>
<td>Below average response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Four to six recognizable &amp; thoughtfully selected symbols plus an extra surprise.</td>
<td>Four to six Thoughtful and recognizable symbols</td>
<td>Four recognizable symbols</td>
<td>Three or less and/or unrecognizable symbols.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creativity</strong></td>
<td>Totem pole shows an exceptionally high degree of creativity and interest</td>
<td>Totem pole is creative and interesting.</td>
<td>Totem pole is somewhat interesting</td>
<td>Totem pole shows lack of interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Construction/ materials</strong></td>
<td>Totem Pole is neatly and beautifully constructed with an interesting, and creative use of materials</td>
<td>Totem pole is well-constructed with an interesting use of materials.</td>
<td>Totem pole works.</td>
<td>Totem pole is sloppy, haphazardly constructed and/or looks junky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Justification</strong></td>
<td>All symbols are explained and exceptionally well-chosen for the Elwha River.</td>
<td>All symbols are explained and relate to the Elwha River</td>
<td>One symbol is not explained or symbols don’t relate completely to the Elwha River</td>
<td>Symbols are not justified and don’t relate to the Elwha River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group work</strong></td>
<td>Group worked exceptionally well together. They stayed focused on the project and completed on time.</td>
<td>Group worked well together. They stayed mostly focused and completed the project on time.</td>
<td>Group worked pretty well together. There was some goofing off, but the project was completed in time.</td>
<td>Group didn’t work well together. They were unfocused and the project was incomplete.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>