

Peace Shield – The Use of Symbolism

Note. There are many different cultural communities among the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in Canada. Each have their own symbols and meanings attached to those symbols. These have been provided as examples only for the purposes of this exercise.

Symbols	What they represent
grandfather, grandmother	models
fire	the spirit of the people, children
rainbow	myths, forces, the bridge between the spirit and the earth
circle of pine trees	feelings and emotions
lake	the mirror of a complete state
braids	experience
fox and kits	peers
turtle	the oldest traditions
coyote	gentle trickster
river	the spirit of life
dragonfly	hypnotizing objects
dog	philosophy, a servant
symmetry	the duality of existence
eyes	perception
evening	rest, dreams, introspection
touch the earth	to be in contact with the laws of nature
stone	power
sweetgrass	purification
beaver	tenacity, responsibility
wolf	medicine
butterfly	life, a child's toy
hawk	someone with no enemies
thunderbird	creation
eagle	illumination (the East)
mouse	confidence, the perception of that which is close (the South)
bear	introspection (the West)
buffalo	wisdom (the North)