

## Tongva Lesson Plan #4: Refocusing the Cultural Lens Ti'at as Relative

### Goals:

- 1) Bring in the elements of the three last lessons to relate how the Ti'at is a community member.
- 2) emphasize current Tongva Population
- 3) Examine relationship to water and our bodies
- 4) Interrelationships of plants and animals, outside of the human.

### Background:




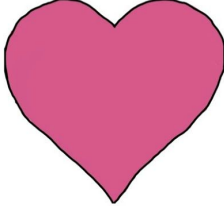
Cindi Alvitre [speaks](#) to the canoe society on the MILA blog Eastern Oceania. The canoe is made from the tar, mineral rocks, wood, and pine pitch. All the different elements in the aesthetics are tied to parts of the human body. On the blog, Alvitre speaks of the importance and origination and how it is an extension of the community. Find additional information in her [interview with KQED News](#).

### Resources and Materials:

- Moomat Ahiko (by Carly Lake) <https://vimeo.com/195213223>



- Printed Labels of Tongva words: Breath, Relative, Ears, Head, Lungs, Heart

 <p><b>HIKAAAYEY (BREATH)</b></p>	 <p><b>NONAANAX (EAR)</b></p>
 <p><b>NEPWAAN (MY HEAD)</b></p>	 <p><b>NESHUUN (MY HEART)</b></p>

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1cEsACouS2voPa4i6otMFgTLy-JB6yra>  
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- Image of Dogbane and Ti'at canoe.



- Raffia and small wood planks

### Exercises:

1. Show a picture of the Ti'at. What would you be doing while you spent this time making a large canoe? How many people would it take? What do you do in your family to bring people together?
2. Identify the labels with the parts of the Ti'at. Do a pin the ears on the Ti'at exercise.

3. Ask the students, what do you think they made the canoe from? How did they make this without modern equipment?
4. Cordage exercise: Plant fibers were used to make cordage. Dogbane was used for latching the canoe. Only in fall were you able to get the dogbane and there was a very involved process to harvesting. Culture was very cordage based , from clothes, to baskets, to canoe , to making the houses. You had to know in order to live and have a thriving culture. Use The raffia to practice cordage making. Step 1: Show the video of Cordage making Step 2: Split into groups of two. Step 3: Each student on the end begins twisting the cordage. Step 4: Each Kid makes a cordage, now tie together the planks.

**Assessment :**

Option 1) Write a poem: Start with the word Ti'at. Follow with two adjectives in the second line to describe this process. Use three verbs.

Option 2) Make a poem based on the following structure.

Noun  
 Adjective Adjective  
 Verb, verb, verb  
 Noun, noun, noun, noun  
 Verb, verb, verb  
 Adjective Adjective  
 Noun

**Other American Indian and First Nation authored books that extend the definition of relative:**

