Indigenous History Month 2021
Trivia Prize Packs: Featured Creators

Thank you to all the creators and artists who have so generously contributed to our Trivia initiative. Learn more about these artists and support their work!

**Aimée Craft**
Aimée Craft is an Anishinaabe/Métis lawyer from Treaty 1 territory in Manitoba. She is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Common Law, University of Ottawa and a leading researcher on Indigenous laws, treaties, and water. She is the former Director of Research at the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the founding Director of Research at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

At the heart of Aimée Craft's wise and engaging *Treaty Words: For As Long As the Rivers Flow* (Annick Press, illustrated by Luke Swinson) is a question: Just what is a treaty? What does it mean to make an agreement – a sacred promise – and to honour that everyday going forward?

Mishomis teaches his granddaughter the answers to those questions in *Treaty Words*, showing her how to listen, to find her place in the world, and to understand the enduring bond that a treaty is.

Discover more about Aimee at [her website](#).


**Deantha Edmunds**
Canada’s first and only Inuk professional classical singer and recording artist, Deantha Edmunds, has performed on stages across the world. A proud resident of Newfoundland and Labrador, Edmunds is a laureate of the prestigious Hnatyshyn Foundation REVEAL Indigenous Art Awards.

Edmunds’ solo EP, “My Beautiful Home” was nominated for the 2020 East Coast Music Award ‘Indigenous Artist of the Year.’ It features three beloved songs from Newfoundland and Labrador that marry her identity as an Inuk with her training and passion for classical music.

Discover more about Deantha by visiting [her website](#).

**Alanah Astehtsi Otsistohkwa Jewell (Morningstar Designs)**
Alanah Astehtsi Otsistohkwa (Morningstar) Jewell is a mixed French-First Nations artist, and is Bear Clan from Oneida Nation of the Thames. She is an illustrator, painter and muralist, and organizes local Indigenous Art Markets through the Instagram account [the Instagram account](#). Her passion is promoting Indigenous art and culture in urban areas.

Outside of creating, she is also the Parks Engagement Associate for the City of Kitchener, where she works to Indigenize urban parks and open spaces.
Find Alanah on Instagram.

Nalakwsis
Nalakwsis (they/them) is a bead artist, illustrator, and photographer. They are Eeyou from Whapmagoostui, QC. Nalakwsis is their Abenaki name given to them by their grandmother, meaning “My Little Star”. They decided to use this name because their art brings them to all sorts of places and leads them to amazing opportunities.

Find Nalakwsis on Instagram.

Ryan Pooman
Ryan is an Ojibwe Painter and Tattoo Artist at Hightide Tattoo Parlour in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Ryan is Bear Clan and a member of Fort William First Nations. His art is inspired by traditional woodland paintings, stories, and his tattooing style. Ryan creates digital, and painted pieces.

Find Ryan on Instagram.

Emma Rain Smith
Emma Rain Smith is an Aniishnaabe artist from Bkejwanong (Walpole Island) First Nation. She creates wearable art and installations in the beadwork tradition and also incorporates modern materials and techniques. Her work is influenced by Indigenous storytelling and language, and explores the relationships between oral traditions and their physical and visual representations. Emma graduated in Fine Arts from the University of Waterloo in 2018 and is still a current student at the university.

Find Emma on Instagram.

Luke Swinson
Luke Swinson is a visual artist with Anishinaabe roots from Kitchener, Ontario. A member of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Luke’s work reflects his desire to better understand and reclaim his Indigenous culture. He seeks to promote cultural education and preservation through his art projects.

Swinson’s beautiful and gently meditative artwork vividly brings Treaty Words to life.


This Place: 150 Years Retold
Explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this groundbreaking graphic novel anthology. Beautifully illustrated, these stories are an emotional and enlightening journey through Indigenous wonderworks, psychic battles, and time travel. See how Indigenous peoples have survived a post-apocalyptic world since Contact.

This is one of the 200 exceptional projects funded through the Canada Council for the Arts’ New Chapter initiative. With this $35M initiative, the Council supports the creation and sharing of the arts in communities across Canada.

Purchase a copy of This Place: 150 Years Retold from the W Store.

Jesse Thistle
Jesse Thistle is a Métis-Cree-Scot Candidate in the History program at York University in Toronto. He is also a University of Waterloo alumnus (MA ‘16). After surviving more than a decade cycling through stages of homelessness, abuse, addiction and incarceration, Thistle, now a distinguished scholar and celebrated writer, is at the center of an important conversation about Indigenous homelessness in Canada. His remarkable 2019 memoir From the Ashes has been topping best-seller lists for months.

“It’s not just about ‘houselessness’,” Thistle says. “Historically, Indigenous peoples haven’t just lost their lands. They lose connection to family and community, and they get dislocated culturally, emotionally, spiritually from all the healthy relationships they would have.

“It’s also about a disconnection from what we term Indigenous worldviews. For instance, my people call it wahkootowin – helping each other in a good way. That’s the way communities governed and lived and had sovereignty where everything is interconnected and we must respect all things in existence. In the Anishinabe worldview, you are placed within your relations, within creation, with the animals, the land, with your family, with food, with your teachers, your stories, your dances. All those things were lost or disrupted through colonialism, and homelessness is often the end result.”

Discover more about Jesse Thistle through his website. You can also read more about Jesse and his book From the Ashes in Elizabeth Rogers's article “Indigenous and homeless is more than being houseless” from the University of Waterloo Magazine. Purchase a copy of From the Ashes from the W Store.

Joshua Whitehead
Joshua Whitehead (he/him) is a Two-Spirit, Oji-nēhiyaw member of Peguis First Nation (Treaty 1). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate, lecturer, and Killam scholar at the University of Calgary where he studies Indigenous literatures and cultures with a focus on gender and sexuality. His novel Jonny Appleseed (Arsenal Pulp Press 2018) was long listed for the Giller Prize, shortlisted for the Indigenous Voices Award, the Governor General’s Literary Award, the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award, and won the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Fiction and the Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction.

Whitehead is currently working on a third manuscript titled, Making Love with the Land to be published with Knopf Canada, which explores the intersections of Indigeneity, queerness, and, most prominently,
mental health through a nêhiyaw lens. Currently, he’s working as an editor for the forthcoming *Love After the End: Two-Spirit Utopias and Dystopias* to be released in 2019. You can find his work published widely in such venues as *Prairie Fire, CV2, EVENT, Arc Poetry Magazine, The Fiddlehead, Grain, CNQ, Write,* and *Red Rising Magazine.*

Discover more about Joshua through [his website](http://example.com) and purchase a copy of *Jonny Appleseed* from the W Store.