

**Name:**

**Date:**

**Canadian First Nations Studies: Poisoning of Grassy Narrows and the Oka Crisis: I Can Statements**

1. I can list and provide details of the causes, issues, individuals, events, results, and consequences of the poisoning of Grassy Narrows and the Oka Crisis.
2. I can describe the actions taken during the Oka Crisis by the Mohawk peoples, Quebec provincial police, Canadian army, Oka Municipal government and Canadian government.
3. I can understand how the identities, worldviews, and languages of Aboriginal peoples are renewed, sustained, and transformed through their connection to the land.
4. I can evaluate how the poisoning of Grassy Narrows and the Oka Crisis shaped the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian government.
5. I can assess the effectiveness of Aboriginal resistance and activism to respond to and resist assimilation policies, colonialism and state power.
6. I can explain different ways in which Aboriginal peoples have sought to protect and assert their rights.
7. I can describe the context of the historical land claims of the Mohawk peoples of Kanesatake.
8. I can define the following key terms:
  - Akwesasne: A Mohawk community situated along the banks of the St. Lawrence River. There are northern and southern portions that lie within the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and the U.S. state of New York.
  - Barricade: A temporary barrier for protection against attack or for blocking the way.
  - Chlor-alkali: Any of a group of chemicals (as chlorine and sodium hydroxide) that are manufactured by the electrolytic decomposition of sodium chloride.
  - Chlorine: A chemical element that is a greenish yellow irritating gas of strong odor used as a bleach and as a disinfectant to purify water.
  - Dryden Chemicals Ltd.: A company that operated a pulp and paper mill located in Dryden, Ontario. It used mercury to make chlorine for bleaching paper. The mill dumped mercury-contaminated waste material into the English-Wabigoon river system.
  - Effluent: Liquid waste or sewage discharged into a river or the sea.
  - Emission: Something sent forth by emitting such as substances discharged into the air (as by a smokestack or an automobile engine).
  - Grassy Narrows: An Ojibwe First Nations community located 80 kilometres north of Kenora, Ontario. Residents have suffered from mercury poisoning caused by Dryden Chemicals Ltd. dumping mercury into the English-Wabigoon river system.

- Injunction: A court order commanding or forbidding the doing of some act.
- Kahnawake: A Mohawk First Nations community located on the shore of the Saint Lawrence River, south of Montreal, Quebec. Some residents erected a blockade on the Mercier Bridge to show support for the Kanesatake Mohawks.
- Kanesatake: A Mohawk First Nations community located on the shore of the Lake of Two Mountains, west of Montreal, Quebec. They had a land dispute over control of an area called “the Pines” with the nearby town of Oka, Quebec.
- Mercury: A heavy silvery white poisonous metallic chemical element that is liquid at ordinary temperatures.
- Mercury Poisoning: Occurs when your body is exposed to too much mercury. Symptoms include impaired senses and balance, shaking, slurred speech, numbness and tunnel vision.
- Methylmercury: Any of various toxic compounds of mercury containing the complex  $\text{CH}_3\text{Hg}$ – that often occur as pollutants which accumulate in living organisms (such as fish) especially in higher levels of a food chain.
- Oka: A small village on the northern bank of the Ottawa River, northwest of Montreal, Quebec. The mayor gave the go ahead to build a townhouse complex and expand a golf course into an area the Kanesatake claimed as theirs.
- Operation Salon: Military deployment of the Royal 22nd Regiment to remove the barricades at both Kanehsatake and Kahnawake, open the Mercier Bridge, remove the strong points of opposition, restore public order and security.
- Plankton: The tiny floating plants and animals of a body of water.
- Remediation: The action of remedying something, in particular of reversing or stopping environmental damage.
- Reserve: A tract of land set aside under the Indian Act and treaty agreements for the exclusive use of an Indian band.
- Royal 22e Regiment: A francophone infantry regiment of the Canadian Army.
- Sulpicians: A member of the Society of Priests of St. Sulpice founded by Jean Jacques Olier in Paris, France, in 1642 and dedicated to the teaching of seminarians.
- Sûreté du Québec: Quebec Provincial Police.
- The Pines: The Mohawk community of Kanesatake had a land dispute over control of this territory with the nearby town of Oka. The Mohawks were opposed to the development of this land since it contained a Mohawk burial ground.

- Treaty 3: Agreement that provided the federal government access to Ojibwe lands in present-day northwestern Ontario and eastern Manitoba in exchange for various goods and rights to hunting, fishing and natural resources.