

Kaaxgal.aat

Elizabeth

Peratrovich



Grade Levels K-5

TEACHER RESOURCES

A series of elementary level thematic units featuring Tlingit language, culture and history were developed in Juneau, Alaska in 2004-6. The project was funded by two grants from the U.S. Department of Education, awarded to the Sealaska Heritage Institute (Boosting Academic Achievement: Tlingit Language Immersion Program, grant #92-0081844) and the Juneau School District (Building on Excellence, grant #S356AD30001).

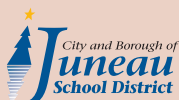
Lessons and units were written by a team of teachers and specialists led by Nancy Douglas, Elementary Cultural Curriculum Coordinator, Juneau School District. The team included Juneau teachers Kitty Eddy, Shgen George, Kathy Nielson, Hans Chester and Rocky Eddy, and SHI language team members Linda Belarde, Yarrow Vaara, David Katzeek, John Marks, Mary Foletti, Rose Natkong and Jessica Chester. Curriculum consultants Julie Folta and Toni Mallott assisted and Annie Calkins edited the lessons and units.

Lessons were field tested in Juneau classrooms in 2005-6.

All units are available online at sealaskaheritage.org.



Sealaska Heritage Institute



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Elizabeth Peratrovich Song

By Nancy Douglas
Sung to the tune BINGO

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.
She worked with **ANS**.
She worked with **ANS**.
She worked with **ANS**.
She worked for positive changes.



Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.

She worked with **ANB**.

She worked with **ANB**.

She worked with **ANB**.

She worked to pass a bill.



Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.

She made an **important speech**.

She made an **important speech**.

She made an **important speech**.

Her speech helped make a law.



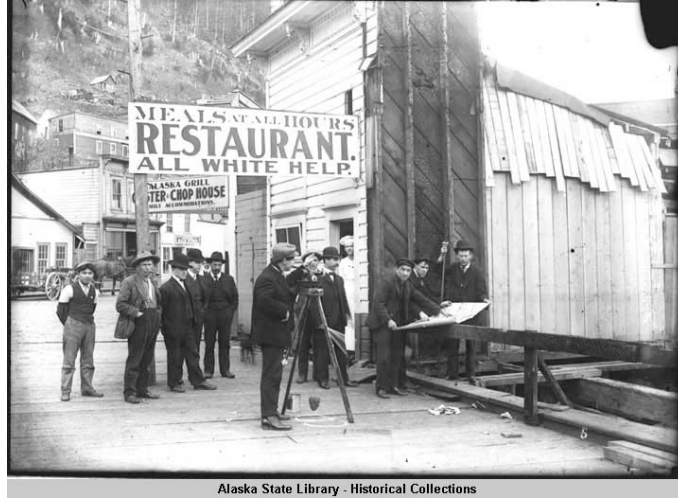
Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.

Alaska **passed a law.**

Alaska **passed a law.**

Alaska **passed a law**

to end discrimination.



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Juneau School District,
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Grades K-1



**Alaska Native Civil Rights Leader
Elizabeth Peratrovich
1911-1958**

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.
Alaska passed a law.
Alaska passed a law.
Alaska passed a law
to end discrimination.



13



Elizabeth Peratrovich

2

1



14

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.



3

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.
She worked with ANB.
She worked with ANB.
She worked with ANB.
She worked to pass a bill.

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.
She made an important speech.
She made an important speech.
She made an important speech.
Her speech helped make a law.

12



Elizabeth Peratrovich Song Sung to the tune of BINGO

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.
She worked with ANS.
She worked with ANS.
She worked with ANS.
She worked for positive changes.

11



She worked with ANS. She worked for positive changes.

4

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.



9



She worked with ANB. She worked to pass a bill.

6

Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.



5



Alaska passed a law to end discrimination.

10

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Elizabeth Peratrovich was a Native leader.



7



She made an important speech. Her speech helped make a law.

8

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Grades 2-3



Alaska Native Civil Rights Leader
Elizabeth Peratrovich
1911-1958



21



2

The legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination bill by a vote of 11 to 5. Now it was illegal to discriminate against Native people.

1

22

There was a time when Native and Non-Native children went to separate schools. Native children were not allowed to speak their language.



3

20

People in the 1945 legislature talked about the law before voting on it. Elizabeth listened to their debate.

Elizabeth asked to be heard. She gave an important speech.

19



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4



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17

There were signs hanging in local businesses that read, "No Natives Allowed," "No Dogs- No Natives," or "We Service to White Trade Only."

Look at the sign in this picture of Juneau. It says "All white help."

6



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In 1945 the legislature tried again. But some in the legislature thought the law would cause more discrimination, not end it.

18

Elizabeth Peratrovich was born on July 4, 1911. She was from the Lukaax.adi clan, raven moiety. Her Tlingit name was Kaaxgat.aat.

In Alaska, the legislature makes laws. In 1943 the legislature would not pass a law giving equal rights to Alaska Natives.

7

16



15



8



13



10

Elizabeth married Roy Peratrovich in 1931.
In 1941 they moved back to Alaska to raise
their three children.

9

Elizabeth and Roy joined the fight against
discrimination. Elizabeth became a member of
the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) and Roy
joined the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB).

14

When they moved to Juneau, Roy and
Elizabeth learned about discrimination against
Natives. They wanted to rent a home in
Juneau. Because they were Native, the owners
of the house said, "No, I will not rent to
Native people."

11



12

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Grades 4-5



Alaska Native Civil Rights Leader
Elizabeth Peratrovich
1911-1958



21

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Elizabeth Peratrovich

2

By an 11-5 vote, the legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination bill. It was now illegal to discriminate against Native people.

The bill was signed into law on February 16, 1945. This was one of the first equal right bill anywhere in the United States.

22

1

There was a time when Native and Non-Native children went to separate schools.

Native children were not allowed to speak their language.



3

20

Members of the 1945 Legislature discussed the Anti-Discrimination bill. Elizabeth listened to their debate and asked to speak.

When she spoke, she asked, "Will the equal rights bill eliminate discrimination in Alaska? Have our laws eliminated larceny or murder by passing laws against it?" She answered, "No law will eliminate crimes but, at least you as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination."

19



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4



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17

There were signs hanging in local businesses that read, "No Natives Allowed," "No Dogs- No Natives," or "We Service to White Trade Only."

Notice the sign in this picture of a street in Juneau in 1943.

6



Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich lived during the time of discrimination of Alaska Native people.

She was born on July 4, 1911. She was Lukaax.adi clan, raven moiety. Her Tlingit name was Kaaxgat.aat.

In 1945 an Anti-Discrimination bill was re-introduced to the Legislature.

Members of the Legislature argued that the law would actually increase discrimination, not end it. One member of the legislature stated, "No law can force a businessman, who is of one race, to deal pleasantly with a customer who happens to be of another race."

A bill to outlaw discrimination in Alaska was introduced in the 1943 legislature. Governor Gruening and Representative Anthony J. Diamond sponsored the bill. Governor Gruening always used what influence he could to fight against acts of discrimination, but he knew the final outcome of the battle rested with the Native people themselves.

The 1943 Equal Rights bill did not pass.



15



8



13



10

Elizabeth married Roy Peratrovich of Klawock in December 1931, in Bellingham, Washington.

In 1941 they moved back to Alaska to raise their three children: Roy Jr., Loretta and Frank.

9

Elizabeth and Roy joined the fight against discrimination. Elizabeth became a member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) and Roy joined the Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB).

The ANB and the ANS are fraternal organizations established in 1912. They work for the health, welfare and education of Native people.

The goal of the ANB and ANS in 1943 was to stop discrimination of Alaska Natives, to take the signs down and have equal rights for everyone in the Territory of Alaska.

14

When they moved to Juneau, Roy and Elizabeth learned first hand about the discrimination against Natives. They arranged to rent a home in Juneau. When the owner found out they were Native he said, "No, I will not rent to Native people."

11



12

Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit
Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2
Study Print 1 of 13
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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit

Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2

Study Print 2 of 13

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Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2

Study Print 3 of 13

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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit

Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2

Study Print 4 of 13

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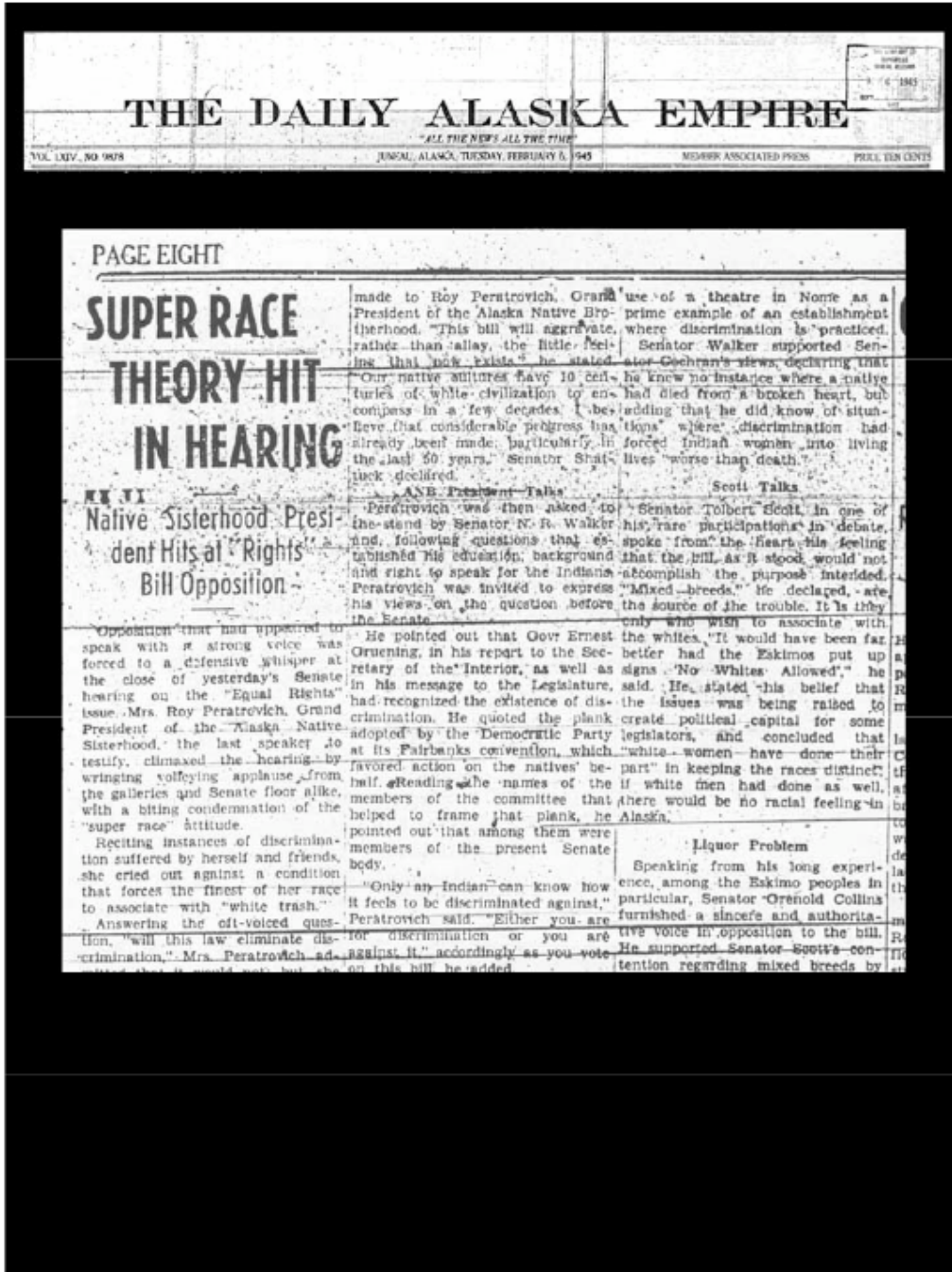


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Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2
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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit
Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2
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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit

Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2

Study Print 8 of 13

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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit

Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2

Study Print 9 of 13

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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit

Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2

Study Print 10 of 13

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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit
Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2
Study Print 11 of 13
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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit
Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2
Study Print 12 of 13
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Kaaxgal.aat - Elizabeth Peratrovich Unit
Lesson # 4 – Activity 1 & 2
Study Print 13 of 13
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Elizabeth Wanamaker
married Roy Peratrovich in 1931.

Elizabeth was of the Lukaax.adi
clan, raven moiety. Her Tlingit
name was Kaaxgat.aat

Elizabeth and Roy joined
the fight against discrimination.

There was a time when Native
and Non-Native children went
to separate schools.

There was a time when signs
hung in local businesses that
read, “No Natives Allowed.”

She worked with ANS.

She worked with ANB.

In 1943 the legislature would
not pass a law giving equal
rights to Alaska Natives.

In 1945 Elizabeth gave an important speech to the legislature.

By a vote of 11 to 5 the Anti-Discrimination bill passed.

Alaska passed a law to end
discrimination.

Since this time it is against the
law to discriminate against
Native people.

For the first time ever, Elizabeth,
Roy and friends danced at the
Baranof Ballroom to celebrate
the signing of the Anti-
Discrimination Law.

Elizabeth Peratrovich Koogéinaa Activity



Elizabeth Peratrovich



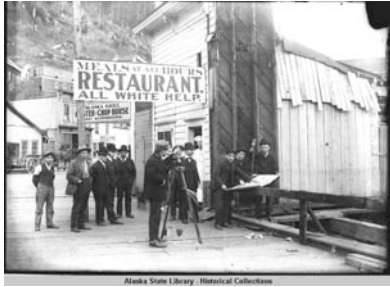
Alaska Native Sisterhood



Anti-discrimination law



Roy Peratrovich



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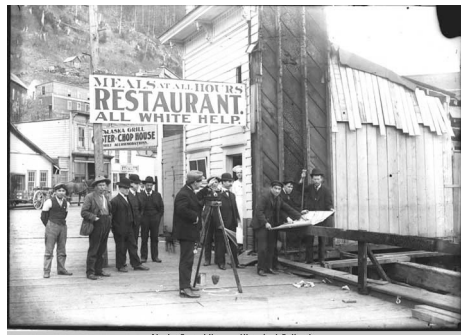
Discrimination



Elizabeth Peratrovich



Alaska Native Sisterhood



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Discrimination

Roy Peratrovich



Anti-discrimination law

Reader's Theatre

1945

Alaska Territorial Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

Cast :

Joe Green	Mrs. Jones	Elizabeth Peratrovich
Allen Shattuck	O. D. Cochran	Roy Peratrovich
Frank Whaley	Norman R. Walker	Audience in the Senate
Talbor Scott	Grenold Collins	

Narrator This is a 1945 session in the Senate of the Alaska Territorial Legislature. Senators are discussing a newly proposed bill that calls for equal rights for all Alaskans.

Joe Green I am Joseph Green and I will be chairing this hearing. Today we are discussing and act that allows everyone equal rights and equal access to all public places and businesses in Alaska and punishes those who refuse.

Allen Shattuck Mr. Chairman!

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Senator Allen Shattuck.

Allen Shattuck Mr. Chairman, I am violently against this bill! Instead of being brought closer together, which is the reason for this bill, the races should be kept further apart. Who are these people, barely out of savagery, who want to mix with us whites with 5000 years of recorded civilization behind us?

Frank Whaley Mr. Chair man.

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Whaley.

Frank Whaley I am a pilot and a gold miner from Fairbanks. I'm also against this bill. As a bush pilot, I believe this bill will create bad feelings between whites and natives. As you can see, there are already bad feelings there.

Talbor Scott Mr. Chair man

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Senator Talbor Scott.

Talbor Scott I disagree with this bill unless it is changed. Mixed races are trouble. They wish to mix with whites. It would have been better if the Eskimos had put up signs, "No whites allowed."

Grenold Collins Mr. Chair man.

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Senator Grenold Collins.

Grenold Collins I agree with Senator Scott. The Eskimos of St. Lawrence Island have not suffered from the white man's evil and they are well off. The Eskimos are not a lower race, but an individual race. The pure Eskimos are proud and are aware that harm comes to them from mixing with the whites.

O. D. Cochran Mr. Chair man.

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Senator O. D. Cochran.

O. D. Cochran I am shocked by Senator Whaley's comments. I can't tell

of many instances of discrimination that I myself have witnessed. In Nome, an Eskimo woman was removed from a movie theater by force when she dared to sit in the "white" section. She ended up in jail over it! It would take up way too much time to tell what I have witnessed in Alaska, but know that I have seen it. There is blatant discrimination in Alaska! I support this equal rights bill!

Audience in the Senate *(Cheer and applaud loudly.)*

Senator Whaley *(Jump up, knock over a chair and stomp out.)*

Audience in the Senate *(Boo and hiss loudly.)*

Norman Walker Mr. Chairman.

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Senator Norman R. Walker.

Norman Walker I am strongly in support of this bill. No Native has ever died of a broken heart, but discrimination has caused life to be difficult for the Native people.

Mrs. Jones Mr. Chairman.

Joe Green The Chair recognizes Mrs. Jones.

Mrs. Jones I support separating the whites and Natives in Alaska. Otherwise it will get worse. We are not willing to accept mixing of the races. It just will not work!

Norman Walker Mr. Chairman, I would like to call upon Mr. Roy Peratrovich to testify.

Joe Green Mr. Peratrovich would you like to testify.

Roy Peratrovich Yes.

Joe Green Mr. Peratrovich, would you please state your educational background and tell what right you have to speak for the Natives.

Roy Peratrovich Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate. I am a graduate of Western Washington College and I have been Grand Camp President of the Alaska Native Brotherhood since 1940. I stand before you today in favor of the equal rights bill.

The Honorable Governor Ernest Gruening knows discrimination exists in Alaska. At the Fairbanks convention for the Democratic party they favored a solution on behalf of the Natives. There are members of the Senate here that helped frame the solution.

Only Indians can know how it feels to be discriminated against. Either you are for discrimination or you are against it. As you vote on this bill, think about it carefully.

Joe Green Thank you, Mr. Peratrovich. It is the custom to offer the audience a chance to share. Is there anyone present who would like to come forward and talk?

Elizabeth Peratrovich (Standing.) My name is Elizabeth Peratrovich. I am the Grand Camp President of the Alaska Native Sisterhood and I would like to speak.

Joe Green Yes, Mrs. Peratrovich. Please come forward.

Elizabeth Peratrovich I would not have expected that I, whom am barely out of savagery, would have to remind gentlemen with 5,000 years of recorded civilization behind them of our Bill of Rights.

My husband and I came to Juneau to look for a home in a nice neighborhood where our children could play happily with our neighbors' children. When we found such a house and arranged to lease it, we were told "No", because we were Indians. Would we have to live in the slums then?

There are three kinds of persons who practice discrimination. First, the politician ~ who wants people to remain less than others, so he can promise them something. Second, the Mr. and Mrs. Jones ~ who aren't quite sure of their status and who are nice to you one day and can't see you on other days, depending on who they are with. Third, the great superman ~ who believes in the greatness of the white race. The discrimination we have suffered has forced the finest of our race to associate with white trash! This super race attitude is wrong!

Allen Shattuck Do you think the proposed bill will stop discrimination?

Elizabeth Peratrovich Do your laws against robbery and even murder prevent those crimes?

No law will do away with crimes, but at least you, as legislators, can say to the world that you recognize how bad it is and speak your plan to stop discrimination.

Audience in the Senate *(There is silence for a few moments. Then wild applause and cheers as Elizabeth returns to her seat.)*

Narrator After a long political battle and a speech by a five foot five inch Tlingit woman, the Senate passed the equal rights bill by a vote of 11 to 5 on February 8, 1945. The bill was signed into law on February 16, 1945. A new time for getting along with each other had begun.

That evening, Roy and Elizabeth Peratrovich danced at the Baranof Hotel ballroom. They danced amongst people they did not personally know and they danced in a business where they were not welcome before. They were happy. They belonged.

Calendar Icons











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Lesson # 8 – Activity 1: Pg 6 of 30





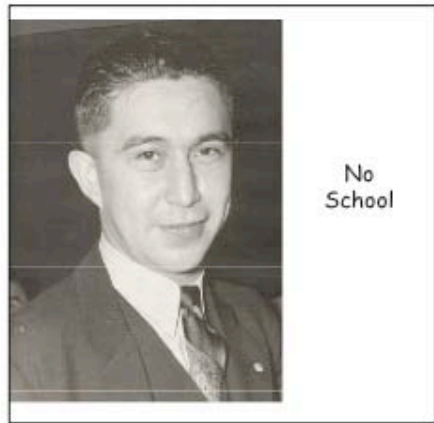
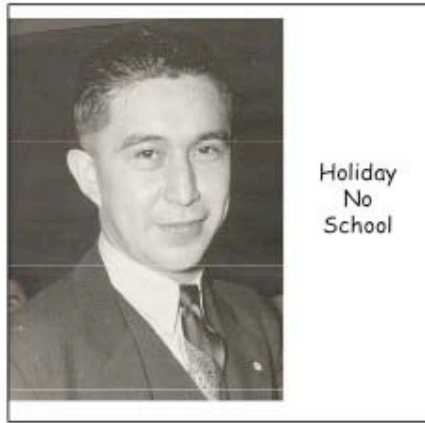
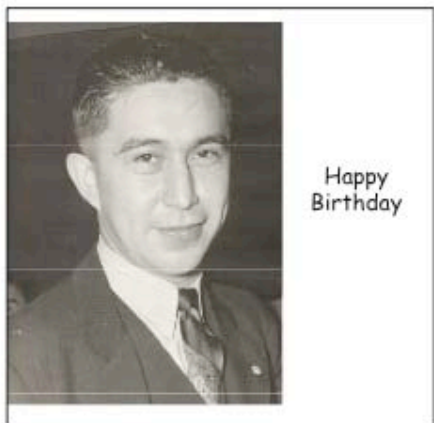








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Lesson # 8 – Activity 1: Pg 12 of 30



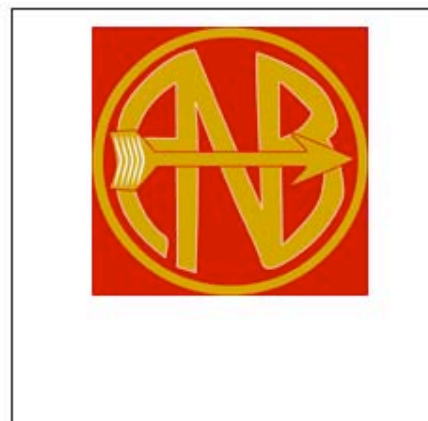
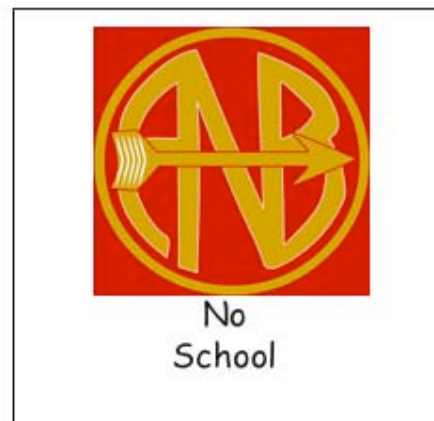
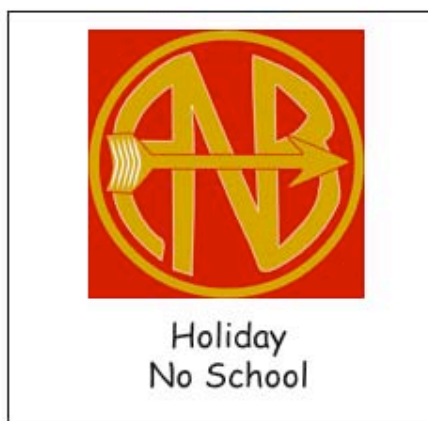
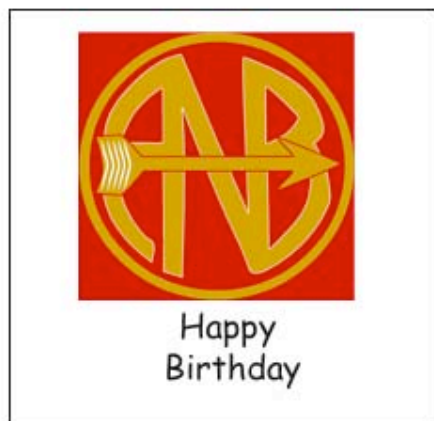
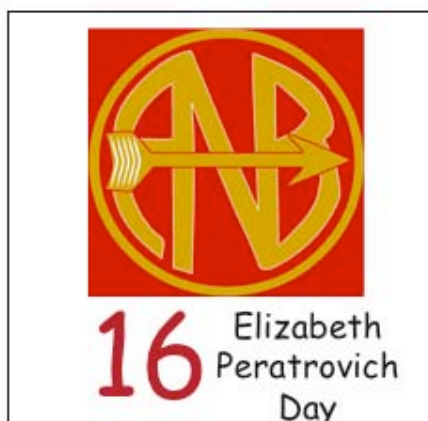


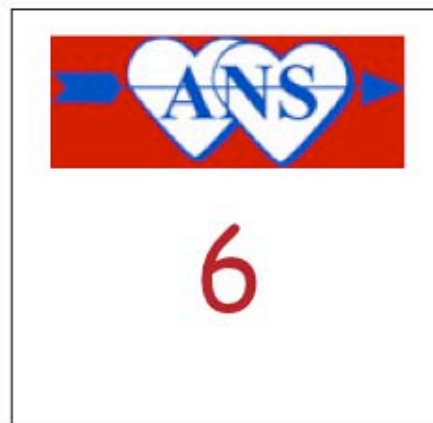
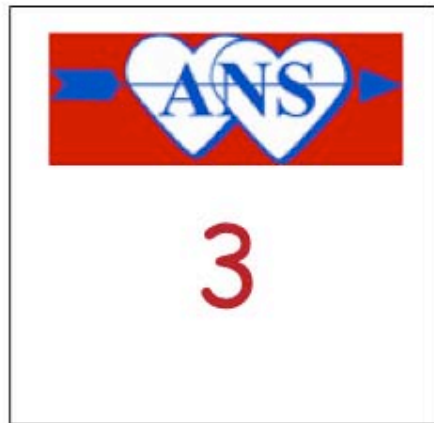














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