

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a dark, possibly black or dark brown, egg. A large, irregular area of the egg is painted bright orange. In the center of this orange area, the words "Every Child Matters" are written in a simple, black, hand-drawn font. The background is blurred, showing indistinct colors and shapes.

Every  
Child  
Matters

# Residential Schools

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Grades K-4



## Inquiry Question

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Why is it important  
to learn about  
residential schools?

# How much do you know about residential schools?

I know very little about residential schools.

I know a little bit about residential schools.

I know some things about residential schools.

I know a lot about residential schools.



Extend the arrow to the spot on the continuum that reflects how much you know about residential schools.





# Residential Schools

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- Residential schools are schools that Indigenous children had to go to.
- Residential schools are not around anymore; the last one closed in 1996.
- Residential schools existed for over 150 years in Canada.
- For the most part, children were not treated very well at these schools.

# Far Away

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- Some of the schools were really far away and the kids had to live there.
- They had rooms with rows of beds for the kids to sleep in.
- They went to school in September, and they did not go home until June.



Cross Lake, MB, 1940



# Hard Work

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- The kids had to work very hard at these schools.
- They were given adult chores like cleaning the school, washing dishes, doing laundry, sewing clothes, milking cows, and weeding the garden.
- There was little free time for kids to make friends and play.



Lac La Ronge, SK, 1945

# No Choices

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- The kids were not allowed to make any choices.
- There was no sleeping in. Kids had to wake up early every morning, even on weekends.
- They had to make their beds every day.
- Kids were not allowed to celebrate their traditions.



Frobisher Bay, Iqaluit, 1959



# Hard Times

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- The food was plain and bland. It was mostly just porridge, soup, stew, and bread.
- Children were not allowed to speak their language. They had to learn a new language without being allowed to ask questions.
- Some of the children were given a different name, many were only called upon by number.





# Everyone the Same

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- They wanted all the kids to be the same.
- They all had to have the same haircut and they all had to wear the same clothes.
- The clothes they gave them were dull colours, like white, black and grey.
- None of the kids felt like they mattered.



St. Paul's, MB, 1901



- There are still people alive today that went to these schools.
- They were little kids then and now they are older.
- Many of them are grandmas and grandpas now.
- Sometimes they get sad when they think about their time at residential school.





# Phyllis Webstad

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- When Phyllis was 6 years old, her granny bought her a shiny orange shirt. Phyllis was excited about her new shirt, and she wore it on her first day at residential school. But when she got there, they took her orange shirt and she never saw it again and it made her feel sad.
- We wear orange on September 30<sup>th</sup> to show Phyllis that we care about her and all the children that went to residential schools.

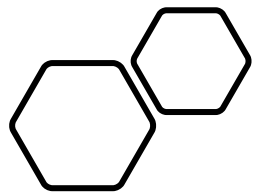




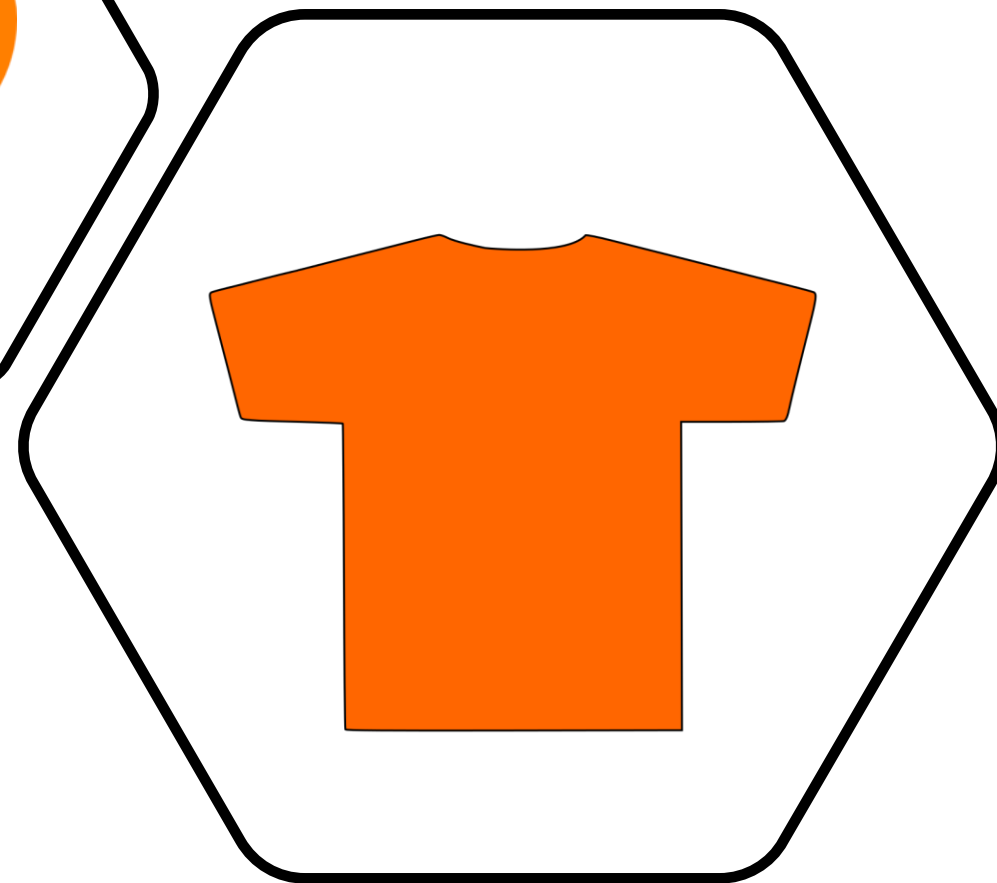
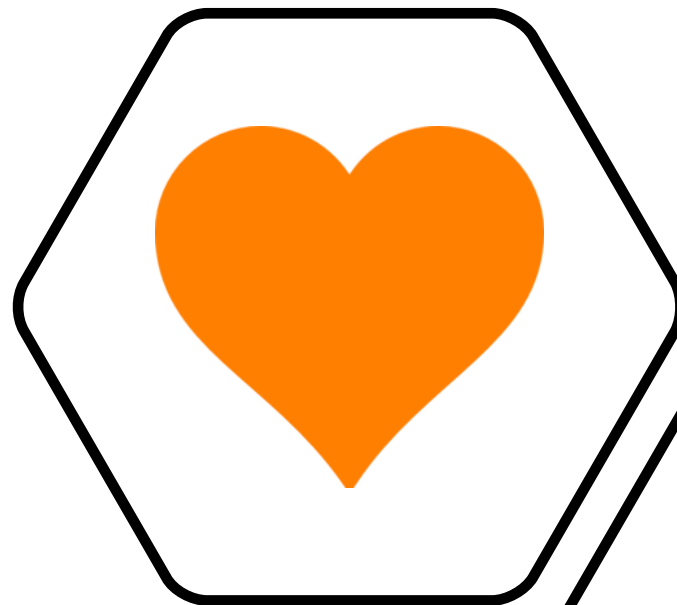
# What can you do?

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- The good news is there are things you can do to help survivors of residential schools feel better.
- The best way is to show that you care.
- There are lots of ways to show that you care.
- Can you think of any?

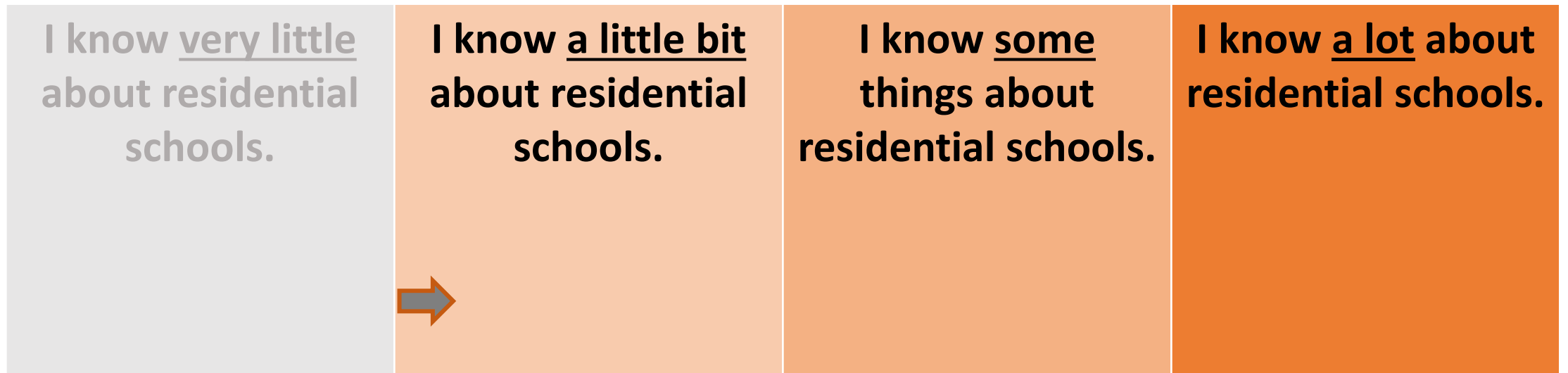


# Every Child Matters



- You can colour an orange heart.
- You can paint a rock with orange paint.
- You can write "Every Child Matters" on an orange piece of paper.
- You can wear orange on Orange Shirt Day, which is September 30th of every year.
- You can continue to learn about residential schools.

# How much do you know about residential schools now?



Extend the arrow to the spot on the continuum that reflects how much you know about residential schools.





# Reflection

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Why is it important  
to learn about  
residential schools?