

MY DRUM STORY

Kyla Bernard with the drum she made

Focus Morpheme

Suffix	-ful
Pronunciation	The suffix <i>-ful</i> is pronounced /fʊl/.

Etymology of -ful

Origin	Anglo-Saxon
Meaning	full of
Example: joyful	Look at the word joyful . The base is <i>joy</i> . By adding the suffix <i>-ful</i> , we create the word joyful , meaning “full of joy.”

Vocabulary

- joyful
- grateful
- respectful
- wasteful
- beautiful
- powerful
- meaningful
- thankful

Activating Prior Knowledge

- Have you ever heard someone playing a drum? Where was it?
- Have *you* ever played a drum? What kind of drum was it?
- What does the sound of a drum remind you of?

MY DRUM STORY

The author of this selection is Kyla Bernard. Kyla is a Mi'kmaw (say *Meeg-mah*) educator who lives in Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia.



A partially made drum

Making the drum came with many different emotions. I felt it was the most **beautiful** way to honour our people and ancestors. Hearing the sound and beat of the drum is **powerful** and **meaningful**. There is an immediate connection to our ancestors who pass down the traditions and knowledge to the younger generation. The language of our people can be heard in the songs we hear when we play the drum.

I recently made my very first traditional drum. I was **grateful** for this opportunity to learn the teachings about the drum and its significance to our people here in Mi'kma'ki (say *Mee-gah-mah-gee*).

Our instructor was very **respectful**, kind, and knowledgeable about drum making and songs. He brought some materials I use every day and some I do not. Some of the materials we used were deer hide, wood, scissors, and water. Sometimes drums are made with moose hide as well. The teachings that are passed down are to never be **wasteful** and only take what you need from Mother Earth. Hunters who harvest animals are taught to use all parts. When we use the hide to make our drums, we honour that teaching.

The wood is used for the hoop of the drum. My hoop was 14 inches (35.5 centimetres) in diameter. It took longer to make a drum than I expected, and drums can take a few days to dry.



The back of Kyla's drum

My drum is used at home, where I continue to learn the songs so that someday I can share them with my own grandchildren. The first song I played with my drum was the Mi'kmaw honour song. When we sing the honour song, the words in our language have special meaning. They translate to *honour, respect, earth, help, proud, people, and gather*.

Indigenous Peoples across the nations have their own traditional songs. They also have their own styles of dance that are **meaningful** to them. You can hear the songs and drumming at community powwows across the country. I am **thankful** for these lessons and teachings.

Vocabulary

Connections

The word *ancestor* means “a person in your family who lived before you.”

The word *generation* means “all of the people born and living at about the same time.”



Indigenous drummers at the Stampede Powwow in Calgary

Time to Talk

Why do you think making this drum was such a **meaningful** and emotional experience for the author? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.

Word Study

In your Word Study notebook, add today's morpheme.

New Morpheme	Type of Morpheme	Origin	Meaning
-ful	suffix	Anglo-Saxon	full of

Spelling Conventions

- For most words, such as *wonder* and *peace*, simply add the suffix *-ful* to the end of the word.

wonder + ful → **wonderful**

peace + ful → **peaceful**

- For words ending in a consonant followed by a *y*, such as *beauty*, change the *y* to an *i* and add *-ful*.

beauty/ⁱ + ful → beautiful

- For words ending in a vowel followed by a *y*, such as *joy*, simply add *-ful*.

joy + ful → **joyful**

Write word sums by adding the suffix *-ful* to the following words:

thought grace play success plenty help skill care

Writing Connections

Drum making was a **meaningful** experience for this author. Write about an experience you have had that connected you to your culture or was **meaningful** in some other way. Use the Vocabulary words on page 1 or other words that end in the suffix *-ful*.



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