

Indigenous Identity

Definition

The concept of Indigenous identity is multifaceted, multilayered, and complex (Weaver, 2001). Indigenous peoples come from many nations, traditions, and are in no way a homogeneous group (Frideres, 2008; Weaver, 2001). It is not possible to define Indigenous identity, but it may be better understood in terms of ethnic identity while keeping Indigeneity in mind. Phinney (1990) defined ethnic identity as a complex construct, one that includes a commitment and sense of belonging to one's group, positive evaluation of that group, interest in and knowledge about the group, and involvement in activities and traditions of the group. Studies have shown the relationship between Indigenous young people's positive affiliation and engagement with their culture and their well-being and resilience (Whitbeck, Chen, Hoyt, & Adams, 2004; White & Jodoin, 2004).

Special Note

This scale was created by the authors of this handbook.

Related Indicators

- Cultural Connectedness
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency
- Integration of Indigenous Culture and Language

Indigenous Identity

Please think of your identity as an Indigenous person while completing this survey. Please read each statement carefully, and circle your answer based on how much you agree or disagree by using the following scale from:

1 = Strongly Disagree; 2 = Disagree; 3 = Agree; 4 = Strongly Agree

1.	I identify as an Indigenous person.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
2.	Being Indigenous is who I am.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
3.	I am proud of my Indigenous identity.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
4.	It is important that I am knowledgeable about my Indigenous background.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
5.	I feel connected to other Indigenous people.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
6.	My Indigenous identity is important to me.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
7.	I believe others view Indigenous people in a positive manner.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
8.	It is important that I know my Indigenous language.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
9.	Knowing my Indigenous language is part of my identity.	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4
10.	It is important that I take part in traditional Indigenous activities (e.g., ceremonies or sweats).	Strongly Disagree 1	Disagree 2	Agree 3	Strongly Agree 4