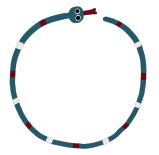


Gathering Snake



Materials Needed:



8mm colourful rope, 1m in length for every student and educator, plus extra to make the knot.



Red, white and black felt



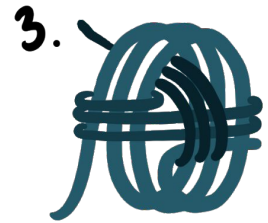
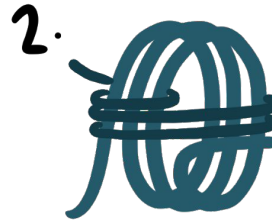
Scissors



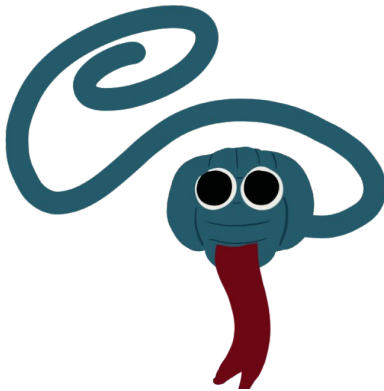
Hot glue gun



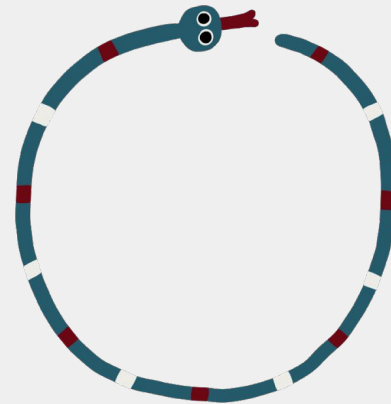
Electrical tape (at least one colour, and all contrasting to the colour of the rope).



Make a Monkey Fist Knot on one end of the rope. Tighten the knot, and leave about 10-20cm at the end for a tongue.



Use felt and a glue gun to add eyes. Cover up the rope end by making a red tongue with felt; use the glue gun to affix the tongue.



Use electrical tape to make 1m markings on the snake.

How to Introduce the Snake to Primary Students

I have found it helpful to introduce him by name. I let students know how much he likes to hear children's voices and giggles, and how much he loves to hear their ideas. I tell them he is kind and gentle, and not poisonous at all. In the time of Covid, where we don't want children touching shared objects, I have also explained that though he isn't poisonous to us, we are poisonous to him, and if we touch him, he will get sick and I will have to take him to the doctor. I explain that I have taken a Snake Training Course, and been given a special ointment that ensure I can touch him and he won't get sick. So far, this has helped ensure that children aren't touching him.

Acknowledgement:

Gathering in a circle is an Indigenous practice that I have learned during various Professional Learning opportunities led by Indigenous community members and leaders. When I gather students in circle, I acknowledge where I have learned about gathering in circle and the value I find in us gathering in this way.

Notes:

- using 2 or more colours of tape integrates patterning and can be used to easily create groups
- double sided Velcro can be used to hold the snake in a coil when you aren't using him, and also keeps the snake untangled for when you lay him out