

“Mr. Explorer and the Living Land”

(A humorous and heartfelt classroom skit about learning to listen to the land, and learning about First Nations)

Length: 5 minutes

Tone: Light, funny, self-aware, respectful, and PARTICIPATORY!

Cast:

- **Mr. Explorer** — the silly, overconfident explorer (you!)
- **The Land** — calm, wise, and patient voice
- **The Squirrel** — cheeky, full of attitude
- **The Bird** — tweets, gossips, interrupts with flair
- **The Wind** — mysterious and dramatic
- **The Tree** — slow, thoughtful, wise
- **The River** — can be soft or loud, it depends :)



(Mr. Explorer enters, stomping, waving a map.)

Mr. Explorer:

Ah-ha! I’ve really outdone myself this time!

A grand discovery!

A vast, empty land with no one in sight!

-(He strikes a pose)-

I shall call it...

-(He ponders...)-

The Land:

Empty, you say? I don’t FEEL empty!

Mr. Explorer:

-(spins around)-

Who said that?! Show yourself!

The Land:


I’m everywhere. And by the way, you’re standing on my face.

Mr. Explorer:

AH!

-(Jumps away, surprised)-

Sorry about that!

 Scene 2 – The Land Introduces the Others

The Land:

I am the Land. And I am never alone. Let me introduce a few friends...

The Squirrel:

Yo! Got any snacks? Preferably ones that aren't my winter stash? I heard humans like sandwiches!

Mr. Explorer:

A talking squirrel! Fantastic! I shall claim you too!

The Squirrel:

Buddy, you can't "claim" a squirrel but we can claim your lunch! Right, Birdie?

The Bird

-(flapping hands)-

Tweet-tweet!

The Squirrel's been stealing my seeds again!

Mr. Explorer:

It's nice to meet you! But who are these others?

The Wind:

WooooooSH!

I whisper the wisdom of the mountains, but no one listens to me with all your stomping!

Who am I?

-(The class should guess the Wind)-

The Tree:

My roots run deep, but my patience runs deeper.

I can be shelter for some or even a home to others.

Who am I?

-(The class should guess the Tree)-

The River:


Gurgle, gurgle, trickle, trickle!

I carry stories and flowing memories in my banks.

Keep your boots on near me!

Who am I?

-(The class should guess the River)-

 Scene 3 – The Land Acknowledgement

The Tree:

Repeat after me: We walk together on this land...

-(The class says together)- “We walk together on this land”

The River :

With open hearts and helping hands.

-(The class repeats)-

The Squirrel:

Under Treaty Seven skies so wide,

-(The class repeats)-

The Bird:

We share the Earth with love and pride.

-(The class repeats)-

The Wind:

We learn from those who came before,

-(The class repeats)-

The Land:


And care for Earth forevermore.

-(The class repeats)-

Mr. Explorer:

-(Leads applause for the class)-

So, what did you mean by “Treaty Seven?”

 Scene 4 – The different Nations

The Tree:

Treaty 7 includes the Blackfoot Confederacy...

Mr. Explorer:

Who are...?

The River :

The Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai, OF COURSE!

The Squirrel:

Treaty 7 also includes the Tsuut'ina First Nation

The Bird:

Tweet, Tweet!

And the Stoney Nakoda.

The Wind:

Who include the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations Peoples.

The Land:

The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Nosehill District 5.

The Bird:

Tweet, Tweet!

And the Elbow Métis District 6!

Mr. Explorer:

WOW!

I had no idea!

And you guys are so good at that!

The Tree:


We're so in sync...

The River :

We finish each others...

The Squirrel:

Sandwiches!

 Scene 5 – The Realization

Mr. Explorer:

So I didn't really "discover" anything, did I?

-(disappointed action/pouty)-

NUTS!

The Squirrel:

NUTS!? WHERE?

Nope! We've been here all along!

You just showed up late to the party.

The Bird:

Tweet, tweet!

Fashionably late! But we'll let it slide.

The Tree:

What matters is that you learn to see the land as living, not empty.

The Wind:

Listen, respect, care — that's how real explorers move forward.

Mr. Explorer:

I came here thinking I'd claim the land — but the land claimed me.

Thank you, my new friends — for reminding me that discovery isn't about taking.

It's about belonging. We're all TREATY PEOPLE!

The River:

The END!