

## What is Two-Spirit?

## ANSWER KEY

**Understanding Vocabulary:** Match the term to the correct definition by writing the corresponding letter in the box to the left of the term.

C	Two-Spirit
F	Sex
B	Gender Identity
A	Gender Expression
G	Sexuality
D	LGBTQIA+
E	Binary

- A. How a person chooses to present their gender to others through their name, pronouns, clothing, hair style, behavior, voice, or body features.
- B. A person's internal sense of their gender. Refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, expressions, and identities of people. Gender is influenced by social, cultural, and personal experience, and can also refer to how an individual is responded to by social institutions. Gender identity is not confined to a binary and can change over time.
- C. An inclusive term for Native and Indigenous people whose gender identity is both masculine and feminine who hold important roles in their communities, including ceremonial, political, and spiritual roles. Also referred to as a community organizing strategy that helps Indigenous people reconnect with their traditional cultures, languages, and ways of life as well as to facilitate connections with Nation-specific gender and sexual diversity roles and expressions.
- D. An acronym that stands for a variety of sexual orientations and gender identities: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and other identities not listed but included in the community.
- E. A term to reference two distinct, opposite categories. In the context of gender, "binary" refers to the classification of gender into two categories: man/men and woman/women.
- F. Biological characteristics that distinguish organisms as male, female, or intersex. Sex is based on anatomy, physiology, genetics, and hormones.
- G. A person's understanding of their body, relationships, values, beliefs, desires, and gender. Sexuality also includes a person's sexual orientation, which is who they are romantically, emotionally, and sexually attracted to.

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Work with a learning partner to answer the following questions from the presentation.



1. What do you see? Describe the image.

*(Answers may vary. Ex: 2 feathers, rainbow colors, a heart)*

2. What is the meaning of the artwork to you?

*(Answers may vary. Ex: feels of love, feelings of family, feeling of pride, feelings of identity)*

3. What Native symbols do you see and why and what purpose does it serve in this piece?

*(Answers may vary. Ex: 2 feathers, a heart, a circle, colors of the four directions, rainbow basket designs – all showing belonging to both Native and 2 spirit identities)*

4. How does the artist create a sense of belonging?

*(Answers may vary. Ex: belonging is expressed because cultural identities are often not visually represented in LGBTQAI+ and vise versa )*

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Work with a learning partner to answer the following questions from the Session 2 presentation.

### 1. What is the origin of the term Two-Spirit?

*Answers may vary.*

*The term “Two-Spirit” was created in 1990 at a conference for Native American gay and lesbian people. It was used to describe someone who has both male and female qualities, especially in Indigenous cultures.*

### 2. How does Two-Spirit identity relate to gender and sexual identity?

*Answers may vary.*

*Two-Spirit people don't fit into just one gender or sexual identity. They may have both masculine and feminine traits or may feel attracted to people of different genders. Two-Spirit individuals may perform gender roles or have sexual orientations outside binary norms, and combine elements of both male and female experiences.*

### 3. How do some indigenous peoples define Two-Spirit identity?

*Answers may vary.*

*Different Indigenous cultures have their own ideas of what it means to be Two-Spirit, but generally, it means having both a male and a female spirit. Two-Spirit people often have important roles in their communities, like being healers or spiritual leaders.*

### 4. How is Two-Spirit similar and/or different from LGBTQIA+ terminology?

*Answers may vary.*

*While both Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ identities are not limited to binary gender and sexuality, Two-Spirit is more connected to specific Native American cultures. LGBTQIA+ is a broader term used worldwide for many different gender and sexual identities.*

### 5. Why do some tribes have their own terms for Two-Spirit and others don't?

*Answers may vary.*

*Some tribes have their own words for Two-Spirit people because of their unique cultures and traditions, but others might use the general term “Two-Spirit” because they don't have a specific word or because their cultures have changed over time.*

**6. What is something that you learned about Two-Spirit people?**

*Answers may vary.*

I learned that Two-Spirit people were respected in their communities because they showed qualities of both genders. They often had important roles, like being leaders, healers, or spiritual guides, and they were seen as special because they could connect with both the male and female sides of life.

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**Responding to Art. Answer the following questions with a learning partner. Include the vocabulary in the lesson context in your answers.**

### **Vocabulary:**

<b>Two-Spirit</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Gender Identity</b>	<b>Sexuality</b>
<b>Gender Expression</b>		<b>LGBTQAI+</b>	<b>Binary</b>

1. What similarities do you notice in all three images?

*Answers may vary (ex: 2 people, 2 feathers, necklaces, rainbow colors)*

2. How might 2 Spirit be represented in these images?

*Answers may vary (ex: 2 genderless people, show of affection, 2 feathers touching each other, Indigenous items, such as necklaces, basket designs, feathers)*

3. In what ways were the elements of art (line, shape, form, space, value, color, and texture) incorporated into their designs?

(Choose one or more pieces of art to answer)

*Answers may vary. (circles, rainbow colors)*