



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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HEALING THE GENERATIONS
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

2002 CURRICULUM UPDATE

SECTION 1: LIFE BEFORE...

(2002)

LANGUAGE ARTS, HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

MAIN IDEA

Within the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory First Nations people hunted, trapped, and grew their food; they participated in their traditional spiritual and cultural practices; and spoke their own Native language and so on. All of the skills were passed on as a form of education from one generation to the next generation.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Students will read stories about life before residential school in the NAN Territory, all the stories were told by NAN Members.
- In groups students will create artwork from the stories they read.

TEACHER INFORMATION:

- Researcher for the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Residential School Project spent time interviewing different residential school Survivors from the NAN Territory and recorded their stories and the storyteller's name is anonymous. Some stories are only a couple sentences long while others are a few paragraphs long and they discuss life before residential school.
- Hang large NAN Territory map on the wall if you haven't already done so.

ACTIVITIES

1. Share the teacher background information with the students. Read **Proud to Speak my Language** to the students.
2. Divide students into (5) different groups. Give each group a different story. If students have a community named in their story ask them to find it on the NAN map.
3. As a group, students will read their story and then create on bristle board or chart paper either a: *storybook, comic strip theme, painting, drawing or collage*.
4. Once complete have students read their story and present their work to the class. Have students label their work with the same title as their story. Have a class discussion comparing life now to the stories from the past.

ASSESSMENT

Formative: Presentation and Group Assessment

READINGS

PROUD TO SPEAK MY LANGUAGE

When I grew up I lived with my parents and my brothers and sisters. We grew up in the bush. There were other people who also lived in the bush near where we lived. I think some of these people were relatives and others were people that my Dad trapped and hunted with. We spoke Ojibwe at home. It was our first language. Our world was described in Ojibwe terms and many of the words were unique ways of describing our surroundings and the events that occurred in those surroundings. When we were taught by our mother to speak, she spoke in Ojibwe. When our father taught us about the bush, the plants, animals, birds, fish, and all other living things it was in our language. My parents were pleased when we used new words which described the things they taught us. I think they knew that we had learned something when we started to describe parts of our world with the appropriate words. I always knew my mother was pleased when we had learned things because she would cook us special treats such as bannock with blueberries in it. That was so yummy.

LIFE IN THE BUSH

I lived with my parents in a one-room log cabin that we built ourselves. We lived about thirty miles south east of Nibinamik, or Summer Beaver. By the time I was thirteen in 1946, I had learned all kinds of things from my father. I had "chores" to do and I always did them because no one else would do them for me. I learned how to live off the land. I learned how to trap different animals and how to hunt moose, bear, waterfowl and small birds. I could snare rabbits and partridge. I knew how to set a net to catch fish. I could predict what the weather was going to be like by how the animals and birds were acting. I could build a log cabin and knew which trees provided the best firewood or hottest to cook with. I always knew where I was in the bush and could not get lost. I knew how to tell where there were thin spots on the ice of rivers and lakes and avoid them so I wouldn't get wet or drown in the winter. All of these things were just a part of living in the bush. I liked living like that.

COUNTRY FOOD

I was born in the bush near Lansdowne House and I grew up in the bush. My father killed or trapped a variety of different animals and birds. My mother caught fish in nets which they had set and she collected berries and other foods from the land. My older brothers also killed lots of different kinds of birds. So I remember eating all kinds of food produced from the country. There were ducks and geese, partridge, sturgeon and whitefish, pickerel and pike, and eggs. There were moose and sometimes caribou. There were muskrats and beavers, and sometimes bear. And we ate almost every part of the birds, and fish and animals. There were berries - strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and other berries that grew on bushes. There were different kinds of roots, ferns and wild onions, and bulrush roots. There were also many other things that we ate from the land. And all of it tasted so good with the bannock that my mother used to make.

