



## Fire Teachings iskotēw kiskinohamakewin

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

#### SYNOPSIS

In this video, Wāpastim tells 3 stories about how fire came first to the Mohawk, then to the Micmac, and third, to the Cree people. He then shares his Nēhiyaw (Cree) knowledge about fire teachings, including the role fire plays in the symbiotic relationship between Nēhiyawak and nature.

#### THEMES

legends comparison; cedar offerings and Trickster; respect; balance; stewardship; protocol; controlled burning; healthy ecosystem; fire regulations

#### LEGENDS/STORIES

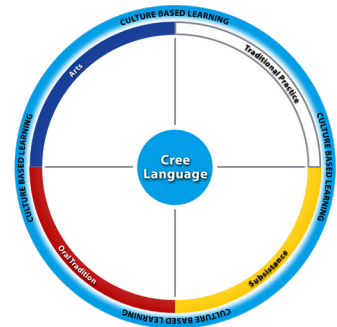
 Legend of Fire

#### CREE TERMS

##### Fire Teachings

- tānisi - hello
- Wāpastim - White Horse
- nisīkāson - is my name
- iskotēw - fire
- tanisi mosism -how grandson
- Nēhiyawak - Cree People
- wāpos - rabbit
- Nēhiyawēwin - Cree way
- waskwayimitos - birch tree
- kāyas - long ago

#### PRE-PLANNING TEMPLATE



#### VIDEOS

**Fire Teachings** iskotēw kiskinohamakewin (37:03)

- Wesakeychak - Trickster
- kōkom - grandmother
- nohkom - my grandmother
- astam kweyaho - come quickly
- Waskway - birch
- kōkom astam - come here grandmother
- Aw (okay)
- nanaskamitin (I thank you)
- waskwayimitos (birch tree)
- ahcahk - spirit
- mosom iskotēw - grandfather fire
- Kihtēhayahk - Elders

This guide was developed by the Alberta Professional Learning Consortium and funded partially by Alberta Education to support implementation. It is freely provided in support of improved teaching and learning under the following Creative Commons license.



## Fire Teachings iskotēw kiskinohamakewin

### STORY NOTES

Wāpastim shared that there are many Cree stories involving Trickster (Wesahkecak). Traditionally, Trickster's real name should only be spoken aloud when there is snow on the ground. Included in this video is a Trickster story. It is okay to tell it, but out of respect, please only speak Trickster's true name if there is snow on the ground.

One way of understanding this practice is that the coming of longer days in spring were focused on work. The long, dark nights in winter were a time for stories. By saying Trickster's name at the wrong time, you might be inviting in the negative and maybe even the disdain of Trickster.

### POSSIBLE ON-THE-LAND ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

- Practice building a pretend fire with a variety of materials; sit around the "fire" and listen to the stories.
- Go out to the playground. If we were to light a fire right now, predict how it would behave. (or, through movement, pretend you're a flame. How would you move? What would you feel?)

### EXAMPLES OF GRADE AND CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

#### Grade 6 Science: Energy

6E 2.2 Students investigate energy resources and explain factors that influence their use.

#### Earth Systems

6ES 1.1 Students investigate climate, changes in climate, and the impact of climate change on earth.

#### Grade 7 Science: Interactions and Ecosystems

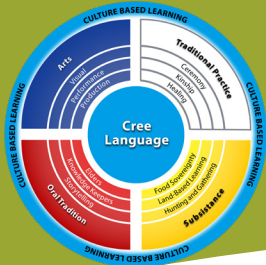
Investigate and describe relationships between humans and their environments, and identify related issues and scientific questions.

#### CTS Natural Resources Cluster

- ENS1010 Introduction to Stewardship
- ENS1040 Living With the Environment, etc.
- FOR2010 Forest Protection and Stewardship
- FOR2100 Forest Management, etc.

### ASSESSMENT

Remember that the learning outcomes are what are being assessed by the end of the year.



## Pre-Planning with the 4 Foundations of Cree Ways of Knowing and Being

