



Tipi Teachings

SEASON: All Seasons

SYNOPSIS

Wāpastim guides us through the building of a tipi and the teachings that accompany each pole. The 13 poles and 13 moons are deeply connected. Included in this series is a video that provides a complete overview; 12 videos: one for each of the first 12 poles with more detailed teachings; a video about the 13th pole – the lifting pole and the two control flaps that provide energy regulation.

 Within **Elders' Voices** are a number of videos you can watch in which individual Elders reflect on various tipi pole teachings.

THEMES

building a structure, metaphor, life stages, character development, balance, lunar cycle, self regulation, weather, shelters, healthy relationships, growth and development

LEGENDS/STORIES

 [Legend of the Tipi Teachings](#)

RESOURCE

 [Tipi Teachings](#)

VIDEOS IN THIS SERIES

[Complete Tipi Teachings \(23:44\)](#)

[Pole 1 - Obedience \(3:36\)](#)

[Pole 2 - Respect \(5:48\)](#)

[Pole 3 - Humility \(8:38\)](#)

[Pole 4 - Love \(13:35\)](#)

[Pole 5 - Happiness \(3:23\)](#)

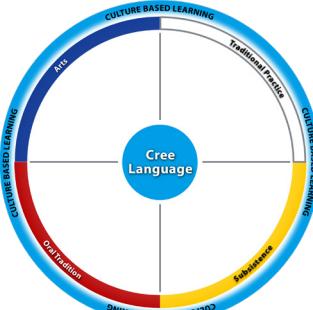
[Pole 6 - Faith \(10:54\)](#)

[Pole 7 - Family \(9:25\)](#)

[Pole 8 - Sharing \(3:56\)](#)

[Pole 9 - Hope \(8:32\)](#)

PRE-PLANNING TEMPLATE



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.



Tipi Teachings

CREE TERMS

Complete Tipi Teachings

mikiwahp - tipi

Pole 1 - Obedience

mikiwahp - tipi

wāpos - rabbit

kimama - your mother

ekwa - and

kōkom - grandmother

kaya ikosiiota - don't do that

mosōm - grandfather

Pole 2 - Respect

oskayak - young people

anohc - today

kāyas - long ago

Pole 3 - Humility

oskapewis - elder's helper

Pole 4 - Love

ayisiyinowak - people

mosōm - grandfather

mikiwam - home



Pole 5 - Happiness

Pole 6 - Faith

mikiwahp - tipi

oskayak - young people

Pole 7 - Family

mikiwahp - tipi

Pole 8 - Sharing

Pole 9 - Hope

Pole 10 - Cleanliness

Pole 11 - Kinship

wahkotowin - kinship, connections throughout all aspects of life: family, extended family, community, environment, living, and non-living things

Pole 12 - Thankfulness

Measuring, Raising, Lashing

oskayak - young people

mosōm ekwa kōkom - grandfather and grandmother

ota - here

ekota - over here

ekosi - like that

peyakwaw sasamina - one more time again

moyakweyask nimaskinahikan - I'm not good at writing

niyamihchikan maka - I can read still

maci nehiyawewista - starting to speak Cree too



Tipi Teachings

Lifting Pole and Control Flap Poles

mikiwahp - tipi

ayisiyiniw - a person

Wesakeychak - Trickster



EXAMPLES OF GRADE AND CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This series can be connected to multiple subjects and grades, from using poles for counting and grouping in lower grades, to geometry connections with shape. English connections to such literary devices as metaphor can be made where the tipi is explained to represent a human being. Following are some examples:

Grade 2 Mathematics: Geometry

Students interpret shape in two and three dimensions.

Grade 6 ELAL: Vocabulary

Students evaluate how vocabulary enhances communication and provides clarity.

(SP) Use similes, metaphors, and analogies to compare words or clarify word meanings.

Additionally, many Physical Education and Wellness outcomes at all grade levels are addressed with the tipi teachings. Following are some examples:

Grade 3 Physical Education & Wellness

Character Development: Exploration of life opportunities and virtues develops resilience and personal talents and promotes lifelong learning.

Students analyze different roles within varied contexts and examine how roles can support the development of talents, virtues, and resilience.

(K) Self-regulation helps individuals to engage with commitments, expectations, and tasks.

[continued]



Tipi Teachings

EXAMPLES OF GRADE AND CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS [continued]

Grade 5 Physical Education & Wellness

Character Development: Exploration of life opportunities and virtues develops resilience and personal talents and promotes lifelong learning.

Students analyze responsibility and consider the impact on well-being.

(K) Responsibility can be developed by taking on leadership roles to promote safety of self and others.

(U) Personal actions and decisions can affect physical, social-emotional, and financial well-being.

(SP) Reflect on how the results or consequences of personal actions and decisions can affect the wellbeing of self and others.

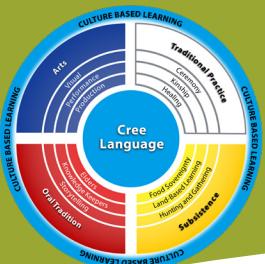
All Grades Physical Education & Wellness

Growth and Development: Decision making that optimizes personal health and well-being is informed by understanding growth and development.

Senior High: Career and Life Management 20

General Outcome 1: Personal Choices

P7. analyze a variety of strategies to achieve and enhance emotional and spiritual well-being.



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

