



National Indigenous History Month

Classroom Activities

Gwekwaadziwin – Honesty/Courage



Gwekwaadziwin: gweh-kwah-di-zi-win
Ma'iingan: my-eeen-gun

The teaching for Honesty requires us to look inward and to understand ourselves. Honesty is represented by different animals, but here I will share the teaching I was given about Ma'iingan (wolf). For Ma'iingan, survival is dependent upon knowing himself, his abilities, and his role in the pack. So, understanding his own strengths and limitations is key to maintaining a strong pack. Like any other close-knit group, wolves have disagreements and individuals sometimes challenge the leader. The Ma'iingan that is motivated to make a challenge is aware of his own abilities, and so in an effort to keep the pack strong, he is able to challenge the leader.

Follow Up Activity Ideas

Questions to Prompt Discussion

- What are your strengths?
- What are your limitations?
- How does knowing your strengths and limitations help you to succeed?

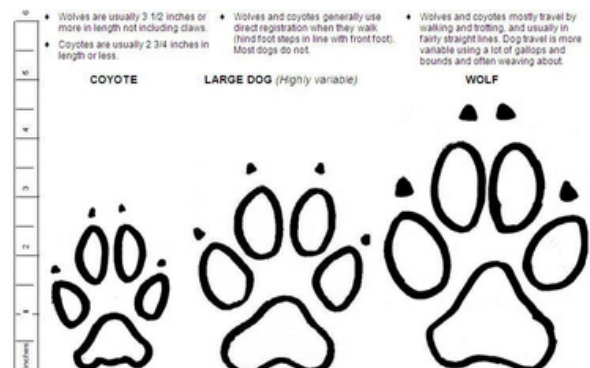
Illustrations of Honesty

Draw a picture of Ma'iingan and his pack.

Draw a picture of other animals (or insects) that work together to survive.

Land Connection

Find evidence of animal activity on the land. Pick an animal to answer the question: how does that animal show awareness of its strengths and limitations?



Images about Honesty

Examine the images with your class.

- How are these animals showing awareness of their strengths?
- In what way(s) are these animals like Ma'iingan?



Songs about Honesty (same activity as Truth)

Discuss the message about Honesty in one of the funny songs below.

- Truth Song: illustrate your favourite part of this catchy song.
- Just Being Honest: Before the song starts, what happened when the friends tried to lie to their friend on the phone? How does this remind you of the teaching about Honesty?

Video links below:

Truth Song by Have Fun Teaching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNqIG92lZmA>

Just Being Honest by Rhett and Link (gr. 6+)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdflAqxhVoM>

Storybooks about Honesty (same activity as Truth)

Discuss the message about Honesty in one of the books below.

- How do the characters in the story feel at the beginning and at the end of the story?
- In what way(s) does the story make you think of Ma'iingan?

Storybooks to purchase or to view on YouTube are in the links below:

The Boy Who Cried Wolf: <https://indigenousreflections.ca/products/the-boy-who-cried-wolf>

Sam Tells Stories: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FGjmXonKx4>

The Honest-to-Goodness Truth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZMBErWNTtE>

David Gets in Trouble: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7PYi7ihlpE

Important Note: Teachings and animal representations may be different across Indigenous Nations.



Please submit photos to inquiries@a-e-s.ca to be entered in the daily prize draw.