



National Indigenous History Month

Classroom Activities

Mnaadendimowinwin – Respect



Mnaadendimowin: mi-naw-den-di-mow-win

Bgoji-Bizhike: bi-go-jeh bi-zhi-keh

Wesiinhyak: weh-seen-yuck

Respect is represented by Bgoji-Bizhike (bison). Bgoji-Bizhike teaches us the importance of showing respect for all of Creation. In order to respect creation, we must first be able to respect ourselves, as we are also a part of creation.

Long ago, before Anishinaabe was placed on Earth, Wesiinhyak (animals) were told that a new being, 'the Anishnaabe' would be arriving. This new being would be helpless. The Wesiinhyak were instructed by the Creator to take care of the Anishinaabe. The Wesiinhyak only knew one way that they could help, so they sacrificed their lives in order for the Anishinaabe to survive and live in balance.

Today, Bgoji-Bizhike continues to demonstrate respect for Anishinaabe through their sacrifice. In return, the Bgoji-Bizhike expect Anishinaabe to honour them by consuming and using all of their body parts – from nose to tail, with nothing wasted.

Follow Up Activity Ideas

Questions to Prompt Discussion

- Why is it difficult to show respect for other people and things if you don't respect yourself?
- What is meant by 'eating from nose to tail'?
- The respect between the Anishinaabe and the Bgoji-bizhike is known as a 'reciprocal relationship.' What do you think that means?
- How do you show respect for Creation?
- In what ways do you think you could be more respectful: at mealtime, at school, with your family...?

Illustrations of Respect

- Illustrate the reciprocal relationship between Anishinaabe and Bgoji-Bizhike.
- Draw a picture of Anishinaabe giving thanks to Bgoji-Bizhike for its sacrifice.
- Draw a picture of your family giving thanks at a feast.

Land Connection

Show respect for Mother Earth by picking up litter.

List ways that you can show respect for Mother Earth.

List ways that Anishinaabe could have used an animal such as the Bgoji-Bizhike for survival. <https://allaboutbison.com/what-part-of-the-bison-was-used/>

Eat lunch outside and discuss all the ways that the Earth provides for humans and how we can demonstrate our respect for Creation. For inspiration, students can look at their lunch foods and look around outside.



Images about Respect

Examine the images with your class.

- How can people show respect for these animals?
- How do you think these animals feel?

Songs about Respect

- Discuss the message about Respect and reciprocal relationships, in the song, 'Mother Earth'. The Wesiinhyak take care of the Anishinaabe, but are the Anishinaabe (humans) taking care of the earth?
- Funny song – Bison: With a song title such as 'Bison', did the song surprise you at all? What is the joke?
- Funny cartoon – Buffalo Song: Learn about bison in this short video.

Video links below:

Mother Earth by Karilene

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

Bison by Will Parker

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJig36Jmh-0>

Buffalo Song by Hamilton Animated

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xgw22DKrAnw>



Storybooks about Respect

- Discuss the message about Respect in one of the books or videos below.
- How do the characters in the story feel at the beginning and at the end of the story?
- Watch a short cartoon to learn about bison (1) or a video about animals helping other animals (2).

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

The Sharing Circle

<https://goodminds.com/products/9780993869440>

Blueberries for Sal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IGrzzlybNo>

Buddy Unchained

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBJ0243znqQ>

Hey, Little Ant

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehH6l6v5sYM>

I'm a Bison - video (1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=766dBX0e0D4>

Animals Rescue Other Animals in Need - video (2)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx4M_4VIl3w

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

To be entered into the daily prize draw please submit photos to:
inquiries@a-e-s.ca



**KINOOMAADZIWIN
EDUCATION BODY**