

CURRICULUM ACTIVITY CHAPTER ONE

MORNING PRAYER AND

THANKSGIVING ADDRESS

TEACHER BACKGROUND

It is important to show gratitude and give thanks for the gifts which have been given by the Creator. Humankind is the youngest member to join Creation and they depend upon all other parts of Creation for existence. Humans have the ability to choose their path in life because Given the gift of free will, , however, with this choice comes the responsibility to be grateful for what has been given and what is yet to come.

For example, humankind must be especially grateful to the turtle as it has been given special responsibilities by the Creator to share Turtle Teachings. The turtle carries the earth on its back — the origins of Turtle Island discuss the great kindness and love expressed by the turtle in agreeing to carry the soil, plants, animals, and humans on its back, as shared in the Creation Story.

The Morning Prayer and Thanksgiving Address included in this document outline many things which humans have to be thankful for. Although each Prayer or Address mentions various aspects of Creation, Morning Prayers and Thanksgiving Addresses can be different and include many things which one is grateful for.

Additional Resources:

Anishinaabe Elder Lillian Pitawanakwat describes the medicine wheel teachings and discusses giving thanks to the Creator. To see this discussion please visit <http://www.fourdirectionsteachings.com/transcripts/ojibwe.html>



ACTIVITY

1.1 MORNING PRAYER/THE WORDS THAT COME BEFORE ALL ELSE

This activity is meant to be a part of daily classroom routine, such as at the beginning of each school day. It also reinforces language use in the classroom.

Materials:

- *Walking with Miskwaadesi or Walking with A`nó:wara book*
- *Copy of the Anishinaabe Morning Prayer and the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address (located in the Activity Worksheets section of document)*
- *Paper and writing tools*
- *Art supplies*

Steps:

Read chapter one of *Walking with Miskwaadesi* or *Walking with A`nó:wara* to the class.

Post the Anishinaabe Morning Prayer, or the Thanksgiving Address, and/or give copies to the students.

Read the Prayer or Address together every morning, allowing students to become familiar with the content and the language.

Discuss with students why it is important to show gratitude and thanks for the gifts that humankind is given. Remind students that humankind could not exist without the gifts of the Creator.

Ask students to visually illustrate their interpretation of the Prayer/Address with coloured pencil crayons or other art supplies. These images can be displayed around the posted copy of the Prayer/Address.



1.2 GRATITUDE AND GIVING THANKS

This activity is meant to reinforce the traditional understanding of giving thanks. Students should be reminded of their responsibility to give thanks.

Materials:

- Paper and writing tools

Steps:

Ask students to complete a 'Think, Pair, Share' in which they discuss with a partner what they are grateful for. These ideas should be transferred to a mind map with the topic "I AM GRATEFUL FOR..." with related words and images surround it.

After a brief discussion, have students individually reflect upon a specific part of his or her life and submit a one paragraph explanation. These explanations may include a special person which the student is grateful for such as grandparents, parents, siblings, friends, pets, etc. The response should begin with answers to the following the questions:

1. *What does the word gratitude mean to you?*
2. *Why do you think that it is important to showgratitude?*