

STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 6.1

MISKWAADESI RACES WITH MAKWA

TURTLE RACES WITH BEAR 3/3

Miskwaadesi had won the great race! Gijigijigaaneshinh, Diindiisi, Gaag, and Waawaashkeshi were dancing for joy. Even Mooz, Maiingan, Waagosh, and Manidoo-waabooz were smiling and happy to see that Makwa had been beaten in a race. Makwa was always bragging and often grumpy and bad tempered. It was fun to see Makwa lose to Miskwaadesi.

Makwa could not believe it- imagine, Miskwaadesi, the slowest animal in the forest, had beaten the big and strong Makwa in a race!

Makwa was so tired from the race that he crawled away from the pond and crept into his den where he went to sleep. He slept through the winter and did not wake until Spring returned to the forest. All of Makwa's cousins have been doing that ever since. You will not see Makwa's tracks in the snow in the middle of winter.

The other animals left the pond. Miskwaadesi tapped on the ice with her front claws. A dozen green-striped turtle heads popped up - one from each hole along the edge of the pond. It was Old Miskwaadesi's family, all of whom looked just like her!

"Chi-miigwetch my relatives," Miskwaadesi called out. "Today we have shown Makwa that it does not pay to call other people names. We have taught him a good lesson. The animals of the forest now know that Miskwaadesi, Miikinak (snapping turtle) and all of their cousins are not the slowest of all living things. Turtles are fast when it comes to thinking and using our brains!" There are many ways to win a race!

Retold by Wahgeh-giizhigo-migizi-kwe



STUDENT WORKSHEET/ACTIVITY 6.1

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL PLANNING GUIDE

STEP 1

1. What stories do I know about animals and the wetland?

2. Who can I ask?

3. What did they say?

STEP 2

1. My partner is...

2. Our story is...

3. We will illustrate using...

4. Our plan is to...

STEP 3

1. What I will put on my talking stick...

