

Our Stories: Omushkegowuk Grade 9 Curriculum, Resources, and Student Workbooks

Our Stories: Omushkegowuk is an integrated literacy course primarily designed to address expectations found in the Grade 9 Academic English strands: Oral Communication, Reading and Literature Studies, Writing, and Media Studies. In addition, units integrate expectations from Grades 9 and 10 Omushkego Culture: Traditional Stories and Living Well, Grade 9 Health and Physical Education: Healthy Living, and Omushkego Character Development: Omushkego Values.

Our Stories: Omushkegowuk is part of the Our Stories Literacy Series: a collection of *aataloohkana* or traditional stories about legendary or heroic figures, animals, trees, and landscape features. The Grade 9 curriculum expands upon traditional stories and explores *tipaacimowina* or popular stories about personal experiences and reminiscences, local history accounts, and real or apparently real events.

Throughout this course students will have opportunities to develop literacy skills based on the *Ontario Curriculum*, English: Grade 9 Academic expectations. In addition, culturally relevant reading and writing tasks that follow the OSSLT framework are included in each unit where applicable and in *Unit 5: Review and Culminating Performance Tasks*.

Unit 1: Omushkego Legends and Review (37.5 hours or 30 classes)

- In this unit, students will explore and review traditional Omushkego stories or legends that involve animals, people, and landscapes found around their community. These legends describe past relationships on the land and with others. http://bit.ly/Our_Stories-9-U1

Unit 2: Omushkego Histories and Accounts (20 hours or 16 classes)

- In this unit, students will investigate traditional Omushkego histories and accounts that provide Omushkego perspectives on Omushkego life on the land and on early encounters with Europeans. These histories describe relationships on the land and with early Europeans. http://bit.ly/Our_Stories-9-U2

Unit 3: Omushkego Elder Autobiographies and Stories (20 hours or 16 classes)

- In this unit, students will examine Omushkego elder autobiographies and stories that provide Omushkego elder perspectives on Omushkego life on the land before there were any towns or communities. These autobiographies describe relationships on the land and with others. http://bit.ly/Our_Stories-9-U3

Unit 4: Omushkego Youth Experiences and Media (27.5 hours or 22 classes)

- In this unit, students will examine Omushkego youth experiences and media that provide Omushkego youth perspectives on Omushkego life on reserves and in towns and communities. These experiences describe recent relationships in towns and communities and with others on the land. http://bit.ly/Our_Stories-9-U4

Unit 5: Review and Culminating Performance Tasks (5 hours or 4 classes)

- In this unit, students will review knowledge and skills from previous units and complete final course performance tasks. http://bit.ly/Our_Stories-9U5

The Omushkego stories described in this curriculum document can be found in the companion **Our Stories: Omushkegowuk** Grade 9 resource documents. They are all told from the perspective of Omushkego elders, adults, and youth. These stories move through time and place: from a period in the past when only animals existed to more recent times when animals, other beings, and people (Omushkegowuk and Europeans) coexisted, and from life on the land to current life on reserves and in communities.

The Omushkegowuk have two words for education: *kiskinohamakaywin* empowering others for knowledge (teaching) and *kiskinohamasiwin* empowering oneself with knowledge (learning). To the Omushkego people teaching and learning are part of the same thing. We are all learning together: *kiskinohamatok*.



Omushkego Voices Grade 11 Curriculum, Resources, and Student Workbooks

Omushkego Voices is an integrated literacy course primarily designed to address expectations found in the Grade 11 College Preparation strands: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Perspectives and Text Forms in Canada, Oral Communication, Reading and Literature Studies, Writing, and Media Studies. In addition, units integrate expectations from Grades 9 and 10 Omushkego Culture: Traditional Stories and Living Well, Grades 9, 10, and 11 Health and Physical Education: Healthy Living, Grade 11 Drama, and Omushkego Character Development: Omushkego Values.

Omushkego Voices is part of the Our Stories Literacy Series: a collection of *aataloohkana* or traditional stories about legendary or heroic figures, animals, trees, and landscape features. The Grade 11 curriculum expands upon traditional stories and explores *tipaacimowina* or popular stories about personal experiences and reminiscences, local history accounts, and real or apparently real events.

Throughout this course students will have opportunities to develop literacy skills based on the *Ontario Curriculum*, English: Grade 11 College Preparation expectations. In addition, students will have opportunities to develop resiliency and bullying prevention and intervention skills.

Unit 1: Omushkego Legends and Early Encounters (37.5 hours or 30 classes)

- In this unit, students will explore and review traditional Omushkego legends and stories that involve animals, people, and landscapes found around their community. These legends describe past relationships and situations on the land and with others while these stories portray early encounters with Europeans.

Unit 2: Omushkego Histories and Treaty No.9 (23.75 hours or 19 classes)

- In this unit, students will investigate traditional Omushkego histories and accounts that provide Omushkego perspectives on Omushkego life on the land and on Treaty No. 9. These histories describe relationships and situations on the land with provincial and federal governments.

Unit 3: Omushkego Elder Autobiographies and Residential Schools (20 hours or 16 classes)

- In this unit, students will examine Omushkego elder autobiographies and stories that provide Omushkego elder perspectives on Omushkego life on the land and in residential schools. These autobiographies describe relationships and situations on the land and in residential schools.

Unit 4: Omushkego Youth Experiences and Current Events (21.25 hours or 17 classes)

- In this unit, students will examine Omushkego youth experiences and current events that provide Omushkego youth perspectives on Omushkego life on reserves and in towns and communities. These experiences describe recent relationships and situations in towns and communities and with others on the land.

Unit 5: Omushkego Voices and Culminating Performance Tasks (7.5 hours or 6 classes)

- In this unit, students will review knowledge and skills from previous units and complete final course performance tasks.

The Omushkego stories described in this curriculum document can be found in the companion **Omushkego Voices** Grade 11 resource documents. They are all told from the perspective of Omushkego elders, adults, and youth. These stories move through time and place: from a period in the past when only animals existed to more recent times when animals, other beings, and people (Omushkegowuk and Europeans) coexisted, and from life on the land to current life on reserves and in communities.

The Omushkegowuk have two words for education: *kiskinohamakaywin* empowering others for knowledge (teaching) and *kiskinohamasinwin* empowering oneself with knowledge (learning). To the Omushkego people teaching and learning are part of the same thing. We are all learning together: *kiskinohamatok*.

