

Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Stories Resources and Curriculum Documents

Our Stories

is a collection of resources and curriculum documents to support the sharing of traditional Omushkego stories from the Mushkegowuk territory between learner and teacher.

These stories are part of a continuum of aataloohkana or legends for all Omushkego children to know, according to Dr. Louis Bird:

Grade 1: Misheshkak

Grade 2: Shingibish

Grade 3: Mishiwiyashishuk

Grade 4: Wisakaychak

Grade 5: Ayas

Grade 6: Pakaaksokan

Grade 7: Wemishoosh

Grade 8: Anway

Omushkego Elders or *Kisheyahow* share two kinds of stories: *aataloohkaana* or traditional stories about legendary or heroic figures, animals, tress, and landscape features; and *tipaacimowina* or popular stories about personal experiences and reminiscences, local history accounts, and real or apparently real events. Aataloohkaana are told to teach values or provide lessons on behaviour, to help comprehend the wonder and mystery of the universe, and to entertain us through humour.

Our Stories: Resource Documents

contain original published and grade specific versions of the traditional Omushkego stories used in the curriculum documents. These stories provide students and teachers with authentic Omushkego texts as told by Elders Simeon Scott of Fort Albany, Xavier Sutherland of Winisk (now Peawanuck), Gilbert Faries of Moose Factory, George Kataquapit of Winisk, and Louis Bird of Peawanuck, Ontario.

“Now I wish to tell [a] brief explanation about these stories that we have from our past, from our ancestors, and [from] our recent ancestors who passed away in the last 20 years. They followed the old tradition. They spoke to us in stories. They educated us in stories and practice. ... It begins [at a] very early age. As soon as a child begins to understand the language, he begins to hear stories. He begins to see the action of the parents and therefore learn[s] in a practical manner.”
~Dr. Louis Bird

These resource documents are intended to support the tasks and activities found in the *Our Stories: Curriculum Documents*.

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.

Our Stories: Curriculum Documents

contain integrated literacy units primarily designed to address expectations found in the Ontario Curriculum Language strands: Oral Communication, Reading, and Writing and in the Omushkego Curriculum Culture program: Traditional Stories, Living Well, and Omushkego Character Development: Cree Values. The units in this series follow interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approaches to curriculum design and development and include expectations from other subject areas.

These literacy units provide teachers with suggested plans for culturally relevant instruction and worksheets based on traditional Omushkego legends and stories. In addition, Grades 1, 4, and 7 feature activities on caring and uncaring behaviours (bullying prevention), while Grades 2, 5, and 8 feature activities on emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual stability, health, and well-being (resiliency).

Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Stories Resource and Curriculum Documents embrace Omushkego cultural traditions while following current Ontario Ministry of Education initiatives.

We are all learning together: kiskinohamatok



