



A Lesson on Potawatomi Prairie by Sara Mccraw

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: potawatomi;prairie;Native;American Indian;

Lesson Description: lifestyle of Native American Indian family on Potawatomi Prairie described over the span of four seasons

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Potawatomi Prairie

by

Content: Potawatomi people lived in the Chicago area long ago. The following paragraphs tell what their life might have been like.

Summer?

We will set up a large house in the big village now. We use long poles to build its structure. The roof covers the cooking area, so that it is even bigger than the floor. I sow our food with my mother. We dig in the ground with a shoulder bone from a deer to turn the soil. It is difficult work to dig and to plant. After we harvest, we will have a lot of food. It is always a great time for everyone because we see our friends and extended family. My sisters favorite season is summer because there are so many things to see and do. My mother likes it too because she likes to be with our big family. There is a lot of work to do, but everyone helps and there is company.

Autumn?

We have a lot of food. We have lots of corn. Every day, I gather more beans. We're drying the big gourds to save for the winter. My father got salt from a salt spring and we are using it to dry the meat. Soon we will move to our winter camp. I search for nuts and berries from the forest. Sometimes, I eat them when I find them, but I bring most of them home.

Winter?

We saw deer and raccoons and knew this would be a good place for hunting. Therefore, we set up a wigwam, which we made from the branches of trees. We stuck one end in the ground and then tied them together in the middle. We left a gap for the smoke from the fire to get out. We pasted bark on the outside of the wigwam to keep the inside warm. Today, it is cold and it just snowed. My father says it is a good day to track for elk. He will be able to see the tracks in the snow, so he will soon go to hunt. My mother says that afterwards we will have lots of food, but also plenty of work. If we don't have enough food in this place, we may have to move our camp to another place, with more animals. We will look for a place with more animal tracks.

Spring?

We can find my favorite food now. We get it by making a hole in a tree and then the sweet juice comes out of the tree. My father is going fishing with a net he made from deer sinew. He throws it in the stream and then it sinks down. He tied shells to the bottom of the net, so when they fill with water, it descends to the bottom of the stream. This summer, my brother will get to fish, too. He has a line and hook, which he uses to catch the fish in the lake. We get fish in the winter only when we cut through the ice to get to them. So fishing is mostly a spring and summer job. My father likes the spring best. He says it is a time of hope. He hears the birds sing and sees the plants start to grow again. I like spring, too because soon we will see the flowers.

Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: deer sinew **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "My father is going fishing with a net he made from deer sinew." What does the word "sinew" mean in this sentence?

A: a tendon; in terms of anatomy of a muscle

B: a collection of shells

C: bacterial infection

D: a member of a household

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "sinew" correctly?

A: Sinew and I are going hunting today.

B: "There was a fresh leg with sinew and bones but no flesh."

C: When someone sneezes, one might respond by saying "sinew".

D: Would you like to go to the sinew today or tomorrow?

Q: 2 WordPhrase: wigwam **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What does the word wigwam mean in the sentence: "We pasted bark on the outside of the wigwam to keep the inside warm."

A: the home of worms

B: a boat type like a canoe

C: an expensive meal

D: an American Indian dwelling, usually of rounded or oval shape, formed of poles overlaid with bark, mats, or skins.

Question: Which of the sentences below uses the word "wigwam" correctly?

A: My wigwam and my friends went for a long and tiresome walk.

B: My parents have given me a wigwam for graduation.

C: My American Indian friends live in their very sturdy, well built wigwam.

D: I have a friend who does the wigwam very well.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: harvest **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: "After we harvest, we will have a lot of food." What does the word "harvest" mean?

A: a collection of paintings

B: something that is bought at a shopping mall

C: a large group of balloons

D: A supply of anything that is gathered at maturity and stored

Question: Which of the sentences below use the word "harvest" correctly?

A: The sun will harvest the moon.

B: The smell of harvest is in the mall.

C: We will soon gather the harvest of wheat in the field.

D: The purple colored harvest is smeared in her painting.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: descends **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "descend" mean when the author writes: "He tied shells to the bottom of the net, so when they fill with water, it descends to the bottom of the stream."

A: to rise to the top

B: to go or pass from a higher to a lower place; move or come down

C: to move sideways or horizontal; left to right

D: to feel hungry

Question: Which sentence below uses the word "descend" correctly?

A: At last, after climbing to the very top of the mountain, it was time to descend and head towards home.

B: The birds descend toward the heavenly skies above.

C: The crops were sure to descend through winter.

D: The boys at the dance would like to descend.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why was the summer season enjoyed?

The author separates the story into the 4 seasons of the year. Why was the summer season enjoyed so much?

2 - Explain why spring is...

My father likes the spring best. He says it is a time of hope. Explain why spring is a time of hope for the narrator's father.

3 - Discuss the different ways the family fishes in the different months

Fishing is very important to the family as a source of food. Discuss the different ways the Native American Indians fish in the different seasons and which family members do the fishing and why.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on why the narrator speaks a lot about his family. We know from the passage that he/she has a mother, father, a sister and a brother.?Make sure to provide specific examples and discuss the jobs of each family member.

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