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A Lesson on Potawatomi Prairie by Brian Guillemette

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 3 hours

Lesson Keywords: Potawatomi, Vocabulary, Discussion

Lesson Description: Reading and vocabulary and writing about Native Americans from the pre colonial period.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3a: Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

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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 means People of the Place of the Fire or Keepers of the Fire. The tribe got this name long ago because they were responsible for keeping the fire for a group of Native American tribes. They came to this area a few hundred years ago and lived here a long time. As the seasons changed, they moved their house and had different jobs to do. In summer, the families moved to one big village with the other families. In winter, they set up small camps. Read about their lives in the different seasons. The paragraphs tell what it might have been like long ago.

Summer?

We are moving to the big village now. There, we will set up a big house. We will use long poles to make its roof and floor. I will help my mother plant. First we will dig in the ground with a big shoulder bone from a deer. It is hard work to dig and plant. After we plant, we will have a lot of food. My sister says summer is her favorite time. My mother likes it, too. She likes to be with our big family in summer. There is a lot of work to do, but everyone helps.

Autumn?

We have a lot of food. Every day, I pick more beans. We're drying the big pumpkins to save for the winter. My father hunts a lot. Soon we will move to our winter camp. I get nuts and berries from the forest. I eat some 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. So, we set up a wigwam, which we made from branches of trees. We left a hole for the smoke from the fire to get out. We covered the outside of the wigwam with bark. Today, it is cold and it just snowed. My father says it's a good day to hunt. He will be able to see the tracks in the snow. My mother says we need more food. If we don't have enough food in this place, we may have to move our camp to another place, with more animals. In winter we cannot grow plants to eat.

Spring?

My father is going fishing. He has a net he made from deer sinew. 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. Soon we will see 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: Responsible **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "they were responsible for keeping the fire for a group of Native American Tribes.". What does the word responsible mean in this sentence?

- A: They had had the job of providing fire for a group of Native Tribes.
- B: They received fire from a group of native tribes in the local area.
- C: They showed great respect for fire when they used it to make food..
- D: They kept other Tribes safe from the dangers of fire.

Question: Pick the sentence that uses the word "responsible" correctly.

- A: My family has a responsible car.
 - B: The police are responsible for traffic enforcement.
 - C: When I eat to much I feel very responsible.
 - D: My bed is very responsible.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Favorite **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author tells us \"My sister says summer is her favorite time\". What does the word \"favorite\" mean in this sentence?

- A: It tells us the author's sister dislikes summer more than any other season.
- B: It tells us the author's sister likes winter
- C: It tells us the author does not like summer
- D: It tells us the authors sister likes summer more than other seasons.

Question: If Jim really likes ice cream but does not like chocolate, which sentence below uses the word favorite in the best way.

- A: Chocolate is Jim's favorite type of ice cream.
 - B: Ice cream is one of Jim's favorite snacks.
 - C: Ice cream with chocolate sprinkles is Jim's favorite.
 - D: Chocolate cake is Jim's favorite after school snack.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: Sinew **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: In our story the author tells us his father "has a net made from deer sinew." Choose the correct definition of sinew from the choices below.

- A: A resource harvested from trees.
- B: A resource purchased from deer traders.
- C: A resource harvested from deer and other animals.
- D: A fishing lure used on old nets.

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

- A: Sinew was an important natural resource Native Americans collected from animals.
 - B: Sinew is a precious plant native Americans farmed for centuries.
 - C: It is important to have plenty of sinew to season deer meat.
 - D: Native Americans had to spend many hours fishing in order to collect sinew.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: Wigwam **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: "So, we set up a wigwam, which we made from branches of trees." Which phrase below best describes a "wigwam"?

- A: A Native American dwelling or house.
- B: A Native American boat or raft.
- C: A table used for Native American festivals.
- D: A storage area for corn and cured meat.

Question: Pick the sentence that uses the word "wigwam" correctly.

- A: We sat in the wigwam as my parents paddled us slowly across the lake.
 - B: We sat and enjoyed our food, which was placed on top of the wigwam.
 - C: Our wigwam was a warm and safe place for our family to sleep.
 - D: We used the wigwam to cross the fast moving river.
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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 did the Potawatomi move during the seasons?

Why did the Potawatomi move during the seasons? Which different conditions and jobs made them move?

2 - How many different resources did the Potawatomi get from nature in this reading and what where they?

How many different resources did the Potawatomi get from nature in this reading and what where they? Did the Patawatomi depend on resources more in some seasons than in others?

3 - Which season requires the most work?

The story talks about all four seasons, which season requires the most work in the story?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Imagine you had to move to the winter camp what would you do to get ready? Write 3-5 sentences explaining in detail the step by step process you would take to get ready to move into the winter camp.

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