



## A Lesson on Potawatomi Prairie by Oscar Romo-delgado

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Potawatomi, 3rd grade

**Lesson Description:** During this lesson, students will be reading a passage called "Potawatomi Prairie". After the students have read the passage they will be asked a total of 8 multiple choice questions about the vocabulary used in the reading. Following that the students will be asked to answer 3 short answer questions and one long answer question about the passage. These questions will test the student's knowledge of the reading.

### 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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.2: Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3: Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

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.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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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.

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## 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:** Pick **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** We have a lot of food. Every day, I pick more beans. What does the word "Pick" mean in this sentence?

- A: A digging tool
- B: Gather and collect
- C: Choose
- D: Bully

**Question:** Which one of the following sentences uses the correct meaning of "Pick" from the passage.

- A: I saw my brother pick at the dead bug with a stick.
- B: I couldn't stand watching the bully pick on the younger kid.
- C: I went to pick the apple from the tree.
- D: My Dad's pick was laying on the floor next to the shovel.

**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** Plant **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** It is hard work to dig and plant. After we plant, we will have a lot of food. What does the word "Plant" mean in this sentence?

- A: A living organism such as a tree or flower.
- B: A place where manufacturing takes place
- C: To place a seed in the ground.
- D: To place in a specific spot.

**Question:** Which of the following sentences has the correct use of the word "Plant"?

- A: Me and my friends helped our city by helping them plant a tree in the local park.
- B: My Dad took me to his job at the power plant.
- C: The scientists did many tests on the newly discovered plant.
- D: The aquatic plant was very colorful.

**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Wigwam **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does the word "Wigwam" mean in the sentence, 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.

- A: A hunting tool
- B: A blanket
- C: A wig
- D: A hut or tent

**Question:** Using the meaning of the word "wigwam" from the last question, choose which of the following questions uses the correct use of the word "wigwam"?

- A: He had a cold refreshing bottle of wigwam.
- B: There were three wigwams behind me waiting in line to see the movie.
- C: The wigwam was very tall and had a lot of space inside.
- D: Bob wigwamed his way through the competition.

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** Sinew **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** My father is going fishing. He has a net he made from deer sinew. What does the word "Sinew" mean?

- A: A type of candy.
- B: A piece of tough tissue found inside the body.
- C: A piece of wood.
- D: A collection of books.

**Question:** Pick the sentence that uses the correct "Sinew"

- A: Me and my friends picked sinew from a tree.
- B: The doctor had to cut through the sinew to get to the bone.
- C: The boys tracked sinew all over the house, making a mess.
- D: The roof was sinewed off.

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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 - How did the Potawatomi...

How did the Potawatomi tribe use the environment and their surroundings to survive?

### 2 - Jobs

How did the jobs change between each season? How was hunting different in the winter?

### 3 - Food

Why is it important for the reader to know what kind of food they ate during each season?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** Why?did the tribe live?the way they did?and how they couldn't?stay in just one spot. Use examples from the reading in your answer.

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