

Make ‘n Take

Name of Make ‘n Take: **The Six Seasons of the Woodland Cree**

Theme and Topic: **Traditional Teachings – Mother Earth**

Name of Teacher: **Kristianna Mercredi**

Name of School/School Division: **Churchill Community High School, Northern Lights
School Division113**

Grade: **Kindergarten and Grade One**

Date: **May 11, 2010**

Materials:

Pictures of summer, spring, fall and winter scenes.

Pictures of a lake freezing and a lake breaking up

Procedure:

1. Ask the students to name the seasons of the year where they live. Most will say spring, summer, fall and winter. Discuss what happens in each of the seasons e.g. weather, clothes they wear, activities they enjoy, etc... Spring – the buds on the plants are growing, it is getting warmer, winter – snow, cold, ice...
2. Show the treaty map of Saskatchewan found at the back of Kindergarten and Grade One Treaty Resource booklet. Point to LaRonge and tell the students the Woodland Cree live in the northern part of Saskatchewan. Explain that the Woodland Cree say there are six seasons in the north. They also have “Freezeup” (the water in the lakes begin to freeze just before the winter season) and “BreakUp” (the water begins to melt just before the spring season).
3. Have the students name each of the six seasons of the Woodland Cree – summer, fall, freezeup, winter, breakup, spring.
4. Talk about each season and have students give examples of what they wear, activities they do, changes in nature and other visual things that happen in each of the four seasons. Tell the students that they now know what summer, spring, fall and winter are.
5. Ask them if they know what “freezeup” means. Explain that it has to do with the lakes and rivers just before winter when the leaves are off the trees. The water in the lakes begins to freeze. Explain that the Woodland Cree call this the “freezeup” season. Once the water is frozen the snow begins to fall and the season winter begins. The next season for the Woodland Cree is “breakup.”

6. Ask them what they think the “breakup” season is? What is breaking up? Discuss how the ice on the lakes begins to thaw and the snow begins to melt. The ice begins to break up. That is the “breakup” season.
7. Take the pictures and have the students arrange them according to the six seasons of the Woodland Cree. You can have the students arrange them in a circular pattern with spring being on the top (north) then summer (east), next fall and then “freezeup” in the south, then winter (west) and then “breakup”.
8. Divide the students in six groups. Each group will represent each of the Woodland Cree seasons. Have each group make a picture of the season they were given to represent.
9. Review the four seasons (spring, summer, fall and winter) that people who live in Saskatchewan experience every year. Finally, review the six seasons of the Woodland Cree in the northern part of Saskatchewan.