

OJIBWE SNOWSHOE

LESSON PLAN



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

OJIBWE SNOWSHOE



CLASS DESCRIPTION: Human Culture and History Class

Students will be introduced to Ojibwe history, seasonal lifestyle and use of natural resources. After learning the basics of snowshoes, they will travel on snowshoes to a recreated Ojibwe site of 250 years ago, learning about the value and uses of five different kinds of trees along the way. They tour a summer home, then settle into a winter home to view tools, listen to legends and practice the simple skills of flint and steel use and twine making from basswood bark. Another snowshoe hike returns them to the classroom for a short conclusion.

Total Time: 3 hours (2 hours outdoors)

Audience: 6-20 students, 4th grade through adult

Activity level: Moderate

Travel: 1/2 mile

Total Uphill Travel: 50 ft.

GUIDING QUESTION

How did Ojibwe people in Minnesota 270 years ago live and travel in the winter?

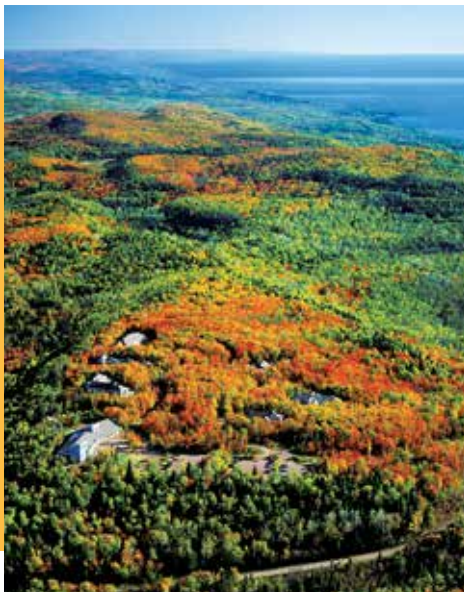
CONCEPTS

1. The environment influences human actions; and humans both adapt to, and change, the environment.
2. Food, resource availability and terrain were major factors in the seasonal lifestyle of the Ojibwe people on the North Shore 270 years ago.
3. Technology and development must be appropriate to resources available in an area.
4. Using physical skills allows us to reach remote natural areas, and gain a sense of place.
5. Different cultures hold varying beliefs on environmental issues.

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of Ojibwe Snowshoe class students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast different materials and styles of snowshoes.
- Show ability to maneuver across the snow on snowshoes.
- Identify some of the natural resources used by the Ojibwe of 270 years ago.
- Give examples of some techniques used by the Ojibwe during winter.
- Compare the seasonal lifestyle of the Ojibwe with the student's own.
- Evaluate and choose aspects of traditional Ojibwe lifestyle to combine with our own, and incorporate into our daily lives.



Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

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Equipment

Classroom Equipment:

- DVD & T.V.
- posters

Equipment that Travels

- fire making kit (charcloth, scissors and jute, flint and steels, birch bark)
- safety glasses
- basswood twine
- jerky bag (more jerky is stored in small refrigerator in the Kit Room)
- water bottles
- first aid kit

Equipment at Ojibwe Site:

- propane campfire
- blankets and deer skins
- basket with trade items
- pots and pans
- games

Appendices

- Glossary
- DVD slideshow Information
- Optional Activities
- References
- Sources
- Spiral Learning Sheet
- Planning Outline

Set-up (15 min.)

- Classroom/class prep description
- Safety Management

I. Why use snowshoes ("aagimag")? (30 min.)

- A. Resources to Explore
- B. Seasonal Lifestyle
- C. Snowshoe Design (Materials, Style, Bindings)

II. How do resources and setting influence lifestyle? (70 min.)

- A. Snow cave
- B. Snowshoe Practice and Race
- C. Wandering Around the Ridge
 1. Trees
 2. Snowshoeing

III. What was winter life like for the Ojibwe here? (60 min.)

- A. Ojibwe Heritage Site
 1. Fire Starting
 2. Twine Making
 3. Jerky
 4. Oral History Cards
- B. Our Lives in Winter

[Return to the Ridge - 20 min]

Clean-up (10 min.)