



**SEVEN GRANDFATHERS  
TEACHING ON MOOSE HIDE**

ACTIVITY BOOK



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She has developed the Cultural Immersion program, which is learning on the land, a key teaching method for children to learn about their culture. She shares traditional teachings, prepares medicine and handles hunting animals, making the children proud of their heritage.

# SEVEN GRANDFATHERS TEACHING ON MOOSE HIDE

## Themes

- ① SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS AND THE ANIMAL ASSOCIATED WITH ANICINABEMOWIN
- ② CRAFT ON A MOOSE HIDE

## Informations

### TARGETED GRADES

Grade 1 to Secondary 2

*(More specifically grade 4, for its significance to our culture and teaching.)*

### LENGTH

Two 40-minute classes

### RECOMMENDED TIME

In autumn

### LOCATION

The craft activity and viewing of the video can be done in class

### RESOURCES NEEDED

- ✓ Craft Project Reference Booklet
- ✓ Materials for the craft project  
*(See page 9)*
- ✓ A short video on the Seven Grandfathers Teachings  
*(See page 6)*
- ✓ Crayons and a blank sheet

# Activity Outline

## INTRODUCTION

- Watching a video on the Teachings of the Seven Grandfathers. *(See page 6)*
- Discussion on these teachings and their importance.

## MAIN ACTIVITY\*

- ① Have each student pick one of the Seven Grandfather spirit animals and draw them on the blank paper.  
*(See pages 7-8)*
- ② Record their teaching under the drawing and the name of their spirit animal.
- ③ Make them draw and write the teachings in Anicinabemowin on moose hide.  
*(See page 12)*
- ④ Prepare the brass ring and attachment of the decorated hide. *(See pages 9-14)*

## CONCLUSION

- Presentation of the works by the students.
  - *They will get to tell their spirit animals' name and their teaching in Algonquin.*
  - *They can share why they chose that particular Seven Grandfathers Teaching.*
- Discussion on the spiritual animals and the values they represent.
- Self-evaluation of the students on what they have learned.

# Objectives

## ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are the foundation of our First Nation values and beliefs. We must faithfully apply the Seven Grandfather Teachings to our lives. We must place our trust in the Creator. In order to live Mino Pimādziwin "a good life" we need to follow the Red Path. Our responsibility is to care for Mother Earth also.

## SKILLS TO DEVELOP

- Hand and eye co-ordination.
- Develop the student's creative and realistic abilities.
- Knowledge of their culture.

**\*The teacher or TA can assist the students who need help with the craft project. This activity is inclusive, and all students can be proud to have made a Seven Grandfathers Teaching moose hide plaque.**

# Lexicon

**MŌZ AYABE**

BULL MOOSE

**ANIDJANĪ**

FEMALE MOOSE

**AMIK**

BEAVER

**MIGIZĪ**

EAGLE

**MA'IGAN**

WOLF

**MAKWA**

BEAR

**MIKINĀK**

TURTLE

**PIJAKĪ**

BUFFALO OR  
BISON

**SABE**

BIG FOOT

**SAGP'IDIWIN**

LOVE

**MANADJP'IDIWIN**

RESPECT

**TABASENIMIDIWIN**

HUMILITY

**SŌGINJIWIN**

COURAGE

**TEBWEGIN**

TRUTH

**GWEYĀKWĀDIZIWIN**

HONESTY

**NIBWĀKAWIN**

WISDOM

**MŌZWEGIN**

MOOSE HIDE

**MINO PIMĀDIZIWIN**

A GOOD LIFE,  
THE RED ROAD

# Context

A brief history involves a discussion of where the Seven Grandfather Teachings came from. The people and animals were not living in harmony and Creator saw this. He took a young boy up to the spirit world to visit the Seven Grandfathers in a teepee. The Seven Grandfathers shared the teachings with the boy and sent him back to earth, to share the teachings to bring harmony back to the living creature.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings are the foundation of our First Nation values and beliefs. Each of these seven teachings must be practised together. Each one is as important as the next. You can not have love without the other six teachings.

Each teaching is represented by a spirit animal which teaches us how we need to live our lives. We, as First Nations people, need to respect animals, people and the environment encompassing every living thing. The spirit animals are as follows: the eagle Migizī, the buffalo/bison Pijakī, the wolf Ma'igan, the bear Makwa, the turtle Mikināk, Sabe/Bigfoot and the beaver Amik.



This short video explains the historical aspect of how the Seven Grandfather Teachings came to the First Nation people.



## **Native American Cartoon**

Gifts of the Seven Grandfathers (7m05s)  
Reuben James (RJ) Steindorf

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=stQAPEEHFHI>

# The teachings



## MANADJI'IDIWIN

### RESPECT

**Pijaki:** Buffalo or bison

Respect is a way to honour Creation by showing respect. We need to demonstrate respect in order to receive respect. Respect is earned.

## TABASENIMIDIWIN

### HUMILITY

**Ma'igan:** Wolf

Humility is being humble and not arrogant. Humility is to know that we are a part of the nature and we are equal to one another.



## SÖGINIJIWIN

### COURAGE

**Makwa:** Bear

Courage is needed to face life with the bravery to use our personal strengths to face any difficult situations.





## TEBWEWIN

### TRUTH

**Mikinaḱ:** Turtle

Truth is having the knowledge of our cultural teachings and always speaking the truth.

## GWEYĀKWĀDIZIWIN

### HONESTY

**Sabe:** Big Foot

Honesty is truthful and trustworthy when we walk through life.



## NIBWĀKAWIN

### WISDOM

**Amik:** Beaver

Wisdom is knowledge of all of our traditional teachings, medicines and ceremonies. Wisdom is gained through experiences of life. The Creator gave us wisdom to use for good. We must listen to our Elders and our spiritual leaders and use their wisdom provided.

## SAGP'IDIWIN

### LOVE

**Migizi:** Eagle

To understand love, you must love yourself first. When you understand the complexity of the emotion of love then you are able to show, give and receive love.



# Activity

## MOOSE HIDE HANGING PLAQUE

### Supplies

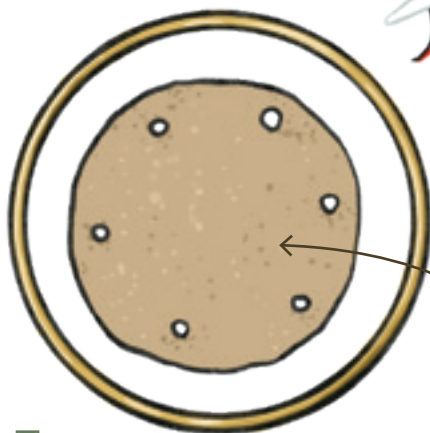
YOU'LL NEED FOR  
ONE CREATION



1 m / 3 ft 5 in  
SUEDE LACING



10 cm / 4 in ☐  
BRASS RING



MOOSE HIDE ☐  
(Smaller than the ring)



WHITE GLUE



SMALL PIECE ☐  
OF CARDBOARD  
(to trace a circular object)

HIDE PUNCH ☐

HIDE SCISSORS ☐

REGULAR SCISSORS ☐

(to cut the cardboard)

SMALL METAL CLAMPS ☐

FINE POINT MARKERS ☐

BLANK PAPER ☐

PENCIL AND ERASER ☐



ACRYLIC PAINT  
AND PAINTBRUSH



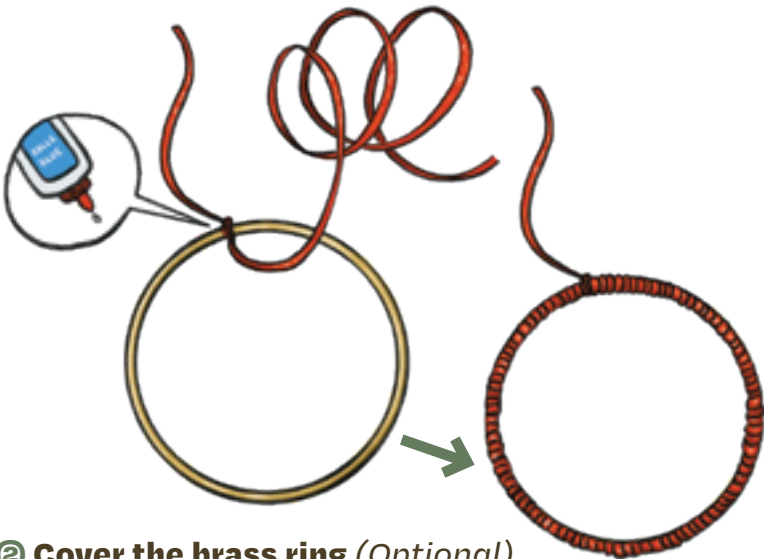
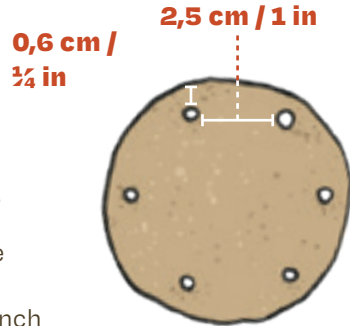


## STEP BY STEP

### ① Prepare the hide

Using a circular item, trace it onto a piece of cardboard and cut it out. Ensure that the circle is at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch smaller and fits inside the 4-inch brass ring.

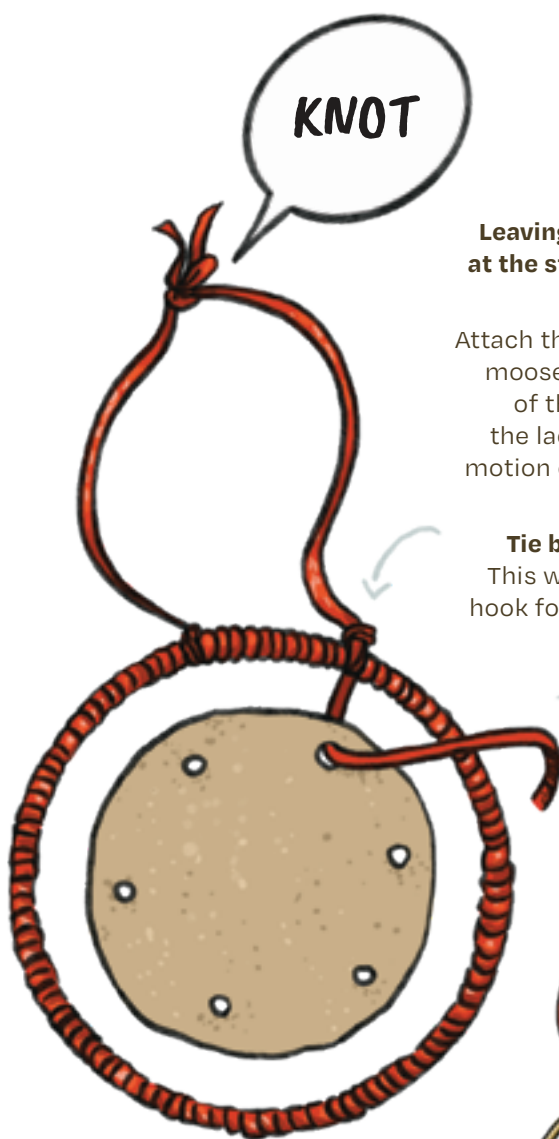
Then, using the hide hole punch, punch out 6 holes completely around the circular piece of hide. Ensure these holes are  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch from the edge of the circle and at least 1 inch apart.



### ② Cover the brass ring (*Optional*)

Use a suede lacing to completely cover the brass ring. **Leaving 4 inches hanging at the start**, tie a knot and apply a dab of white glue to secure to the ring.

Secure with a clamp and continue tightly wrapping the suede onto the ring. Be careful not to overlap the suede lacing when covering the ring.



**KNOT**

③

### **Attach the moose hide**

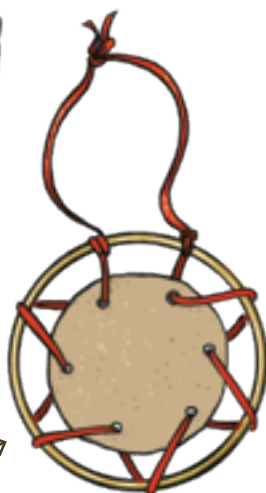
**Leaving 4 inches hanging at the start**, tie the lace to the brass ring.

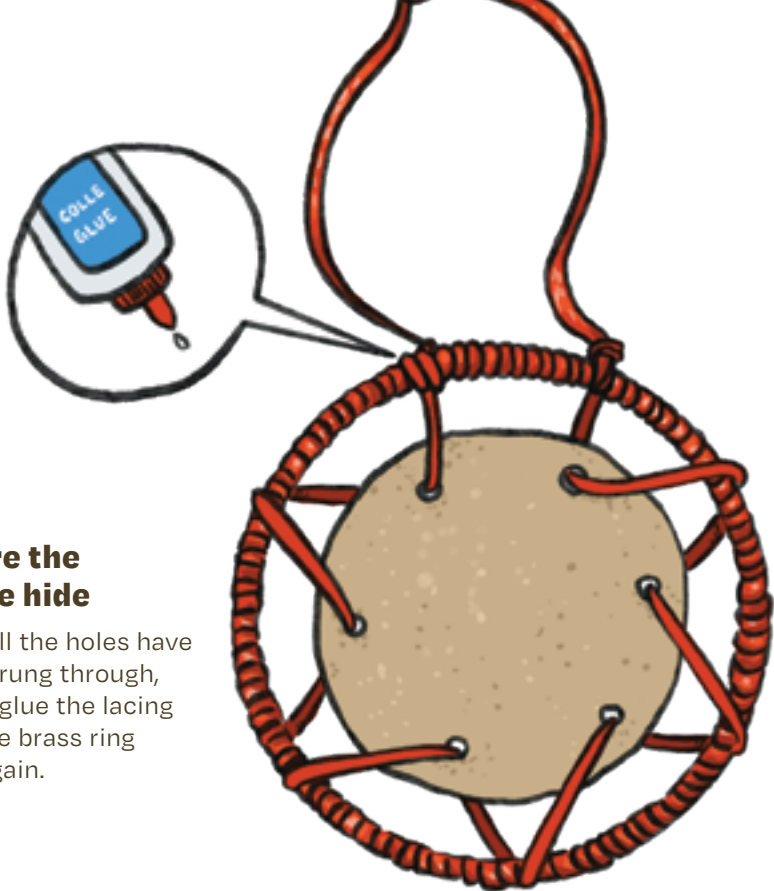
Attach the circular piece of moose hide to the inside of the brass ring using the lacing. Use a looping motion over the outer ring to attach.

**Tie both hanging laces.**

This will make a hanging hook for the final artwork.

**If you didn't do step 2**, this is what your brass ring will look like at this stage.





④

### Secure the moose hide

When all the holes have been strung through, tie and glue the lacing onto the brass ring once again.

⑤

### Paint your spirit animal

Transfer the drawing and teaching onto the hide using a pencil.

Then, paint your spirit animal representing one of the Seven Grandfathers' Teachings with acrylic paint.



**EXAMPLE OF A  
SEVEN GRANDFATHERS  
TEACHING MOOSE  
HIDE PLAQUE**

**(WITH BRASS  
RING COVERED)**





**EXAMPLE OF A  
SEVEN GRANDFATHERS  
TEACHING MOOSE  
HIDE PLAQUE  
(WITHOUT BRASS RING COVERED)**






[www.minwashin.org/en/wikwemot](http://www.minwashin.org/en/wikwemot)

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