

TOBACCO USER AS AN OFFERING

GRADE LEVEL: Primary

SUBJECT

AREA: Anishnabek Culture., Social Studies

GOAL: To understand the use of tobacco as a traditional offering.

OBJECTIVES; Students will understand the uses of tobacco in offerings/ceremonies

CULTURAL

CONCEPT: Tobacco is a common Anishnabek element used in ceremonies and offerings

CULTURAL

LESSON:

Tobacco is used by the Anishnabek as an offering and in ceremonies, Tobacco, along with sage and cedar, is considered to be sacred and are used to give thanks to the Creator for the use of the things He has given the Anishnabek. The tobacco, for example: can be placed where one removes a tree from the earth, or when the ice/snow leaves it can be placed on the ground, thereby giving thanks to the Creator for giving us the tree for our use and for bringing the snow and the change in seasons.

it can also be used to give thanks for our own life and in the case of the changing seasons for allowing us to have lived another season,

Tobacco along with other herbs, such as sweetgrass, is used in the purification and cleansing required in the Anishnabek ceremonies: The tobacco is like incense cleansing the mind, body and soul, and allowing them to rise up to the Creator. It is also used to purify the place where the ceremony is being held. A tobacco pouch is always carried with you so it can be used or given whenever circumstances warrant.

STUDENT

- ACTIVITIES:
1. Have an elder sit in on a class discussion to answer questions: Present each student with a pouch for their tobacco and have students present one to the elder.
 2. Arrange a mini field trip so the students can place the tobacco in the earth. Identify some trees and what [their use is to the Anishnabek - traditional and modern day use
 3. Arrange for an elder to provide some hands-on experience in identifying and mixing the herbs and performing a simple purification ceremony with class participation/discussion. Keep a special place in the school or classroom for the herbs, etc .

ÉVALUATION

ACTIVITIES:

1. Have the students make a display of the tobacco/herbs to be kept in their sacred place in the classroom.
2. Have students paint or draw about their learning experience and display,
3. Have students snake cloth packets with the herbs to take home and share with their family.

RESOURCES :

Cultural Center - videos and books
Elders
Native Magazines
Library, Band Offices books, periodicals,
videos

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