

# Ziigwang—When it is Spring

Ziigwang, iskigamizige, gidiskigamizige, dash gidiskigamizigemin iskigamiziganing. Gakina-awiiya anokiiwag, maajigaag. Iskigamizigewigamig, gii-ozhitoon, Ninzhishe. Ozhiga'igewag giuwita-ayi'ii, niimoshheyag. Bagamaapiway, ingiw abinioojiyag. Naadinisewag. Ningide, goon. Bimise giuwedonong aandeg. Ninaadoobiimin endaso-giizhik. Omibigamizige Ninzhishe. Gakina-awiiya wiidookodaadiwag. Boochigo, zaagin maamawi apane gaagige.

(When it is spring, s/he boils things (sap), you boil sap, and we all boil sap at the sugarbush camp. Everyone they work, when the sap runs. A sugar lodge, he built it, my Uncle (Mom's brother). They tap trees all around it, my cousins. They arrive laughing those children. They gather firewood. It melts, snow. He flies to the north, crow. We gather sap every day. He boils it to sugar, my Uncle. Everyone they help each other. No matter what, rightfully, altogether always forever.)

## Bezhiig 1

### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO  
 Waabooz as in father  
 Miigwech as in jay  
 Aaniin as in seen  
 Mooz as in moon

Short Vowels: A, I, O  
 Dash as in about  
 Ingw as in tin  
 Ikidog as in only

A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A aw.

Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

Particles PC's—includes numbers, adverbs, & exclamations.

It is thus that—Mii, Miish  
 I don't know.—Amanj iidog.  
 Yes—Eya' No—Gaawiin  
 Maybe—Ganabaj, Maagizhaa  
 Again—Miinawaa  
 All—Gakina Always—Apane  
 Inashke!—Look!  
 Much/many—Niibawa  
 A little—Bangii  
 How much?—Aaniin minik?  
 Too much—Onzaam  
 Quickly—Wewiib  
 Here—Omaa There—Imaa  
 Soon—Wayiiba Later—Baanimaa

## Niizh 2 Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Abaate agwajiing. Wayiiba wii-kimiwan idash gii-awan.

B. Waanzhang makwa ogii-pamenimaan makoonsan.

C. Noongom makwag bi-izhaawag agwajiing. Bakadewag.

D. Niwii-miigwechiwendaamin waaseyaag agwajiing.

E. Ininiwag idash ikwewag wiikiigooyikewag ziibiwaning.

F. Nindikid "Ogaawag dakwanjikewag! Izhaadaa!"

G. Gaye, nindikid, Ningii-mikawaa ezigaag, Gaawiin!

F I G T  
 S I I A H O  
 M A K O O N S  
 E A W R O J I I  
 W D E A T E S Z T  
 A B W C Y I Q H K S  
 Y W A A S E Y A A G T  
 I C G B O A B A A T E L  
 I A M N O I P O C W U D  
 B A K A D E W A G M A V  
 A W A A N Z H A N G X N

## Niswi 3

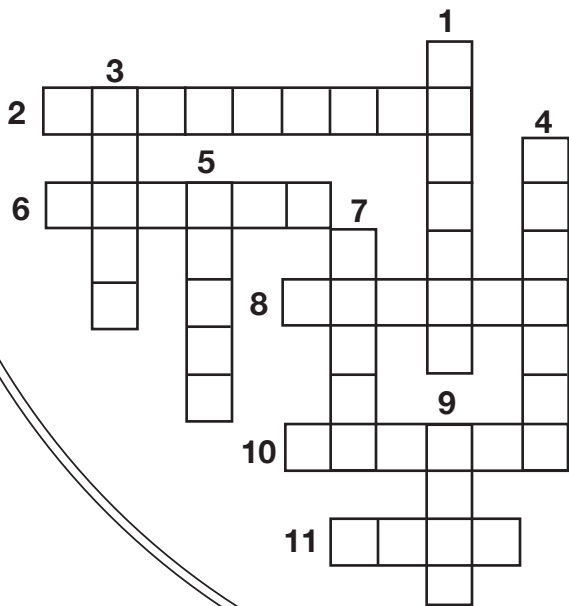
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

#### Down:

1. no
3. always
4. many
5. or
7. Wait a minute!
9. there

#### Across:

2. maybe
6. a little
8. Quickly!
10. all
11. here



## Niiwin 4

### Nawaj PC s More PC s

Bekaa!—Wait a minute! Daga—Please  
 Ambe!—Come! Gichi-miigwech—Big thank you  
 Dash/Idash—And Mii dash—and then  
 Agwajiing—Outside Inside—Biindig  
 Gemaa—Or Gwayag—Correctly  
 Noongom—Today Biijinaago—Yesterday  
 Waaban—Tomorrow  
 Boozhoo—Greetings  
 Giga-waabamin naagaj.  
 —I shall see you later.

### Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

1. \_\_\_ Aaniin ezhiayaa \_\_\_? Nimino-ayaa, miigwech.
2. Izhaadaa \_\_\_. Aabawaa ziigwang.
3. Ningii-izhaamin oodenaang \_\_\_.
4. Niwii-izhaamin iskigamizigewigamigong \_\_\_.
5. Ojibwemodaa! Giga-waabamin \_\_\_.

- noongom
- biijinaago
- waaban
- boozhoo
- agwajiing
- naagaj

### Translations:

**Niizh 2** A. It is warm outside. Soon it will rain and be foggy. B. In the den the ear has cared for the cub. C. Now bears they will come outside. D. We will give thanks when it is sunny outside. E. Men and women they will go fishing on the rivers. F. I say it, The walleyes are biting! Let's go. G. Also I say, I found a woodtick, no!

**Niswi 3** Down: 1. Gaawiin 3. Apane 4. Niibawa 5. Gemaa 7. Bekaa! 9. Imaa

Across: 2. Maagizhaa 6. Bangii 8. Wewiib! 10. Gakina 11. Omaa

**Niiwin-4** 1. Greetings, (Boozhoo) How are you today (noongom)? 2. Let's all go outside (agwajiing). It is warm weather when it is spring. 3. We went to town yesterday (biijinaago). 4. We will go to the sugarbush tomorrow (waaban). 5. Let's all speak Ojibwe! I shall see you later (naagaj).

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to **MAZINA IGAN**, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 [pio@glifwc.org](mailto:pio@glifwc.org).