



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

“Dagwaagin. Waatebagaa-Giizis wa’aw giizis. Gemaa a’aw giizis izhinikaazo Manoominike-Giizis. Danakamigad omaa miinawaa imaa. Binaakwe-Giizis. Aniibiishkaa omaa. Gashkadino-Giizis wa’aw giizis. Gisinaa dibikak dagwaaging. Gashkii-dibikad. Nibiindigenise. Wii-soogipon awaswaabang. Gaye, ganabaj wii-kichi-zoogipon. Minonaagwad zoogipong. Indaa-dazhiikemin agwajiing noongom. Aabawaa agwajiing. Niminwendam izhaayaan agwajiing. Gidoozhiitaa na? Nindoozhiitaa. Izhaadaa!

(“It is autumn. The colorful leaves moon is this moon. Or perhaps that moon is called the wild rice harvest moon. It happens here and there. The falling leaves moon. There are many leaves here. The freezing over moon is this moon. It is cold when it’s night in fall. It is very dark at night. I bring firewood inside. It might snow the day after tomorrow. Also, maybe it will snow a lot. It appears beautiful when it snows. We could play outside today. It is warm outside. I’m happy when I go outside. Are you getting ready? I’m getting ready. Let’s all go!”)

Bezbig—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

Ingiw—as in tin

Niizho—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.

Howah!

Q: Aaniin ezhichigeyan?

—What are you doing?

•Megwaayaak, nindanokii.

—In the woods, I am working.

•Wiisiniwigamigong nijiibaakwe.

—At the restaurant, I am cooking.

•Zaaga’iganiing ninandawishibe.

—At the lake, I am duck hunting.

Nindakandoowin indayaan.—A duck blind, I have it.

Nibawa’am.—I knock rice.

Nimanoominike.—I harvest/process rice.

Anishinaabe-manoomin.—Native rice.

Manoonminikaa.—There is a lot of wild rice.

Niizh—2

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

A. Nindagindaan: “Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa.

B. Wiigob(iiig). Nibiiminakwemin.

C. Zhingob(iiig), zhingobaandag(oog).

Mino-mashkikiike.

D. Ninzaagitoomin, ode’imin(an) omaa.

E. Aagimaak/Wiisagaak.

Ganabaj, gidoozhitoon aagimaak-makak.

F. Mashkiigwaatig.

Niibidoon mashkimod.

G. Waabandan

manoomin iwidi!

O N J M I

B M Z A A S

E A D H ‘ N E

‘ S W I I G O B

G H A K E N I O O

A K A O W D G T M W

N I I B I D O O N I J

A K ‘ W N J A N B E N G

B I I A A G I M A A K A

A I G D K S E K A O M A

J K O D E ‘ I M I N A N

S E N A W H O N Z H O B

nika—goose

nikag—(geese)

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN

ODAMINOWIN

(word play)

DOWN:

1. it is cold

2. let’s all go

3. moon/sun/month

4. outside

6. here

ACROSS:

5. you are getting ready

7. a certain amount

8. when/if it is night

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Online Resources

ojibwe.lib.umn.edu

ojibwe.net

glifwc.org

glifwc-inwe.com

Nika animise zhaawanong.

—The goose flies south.

Niiwin—4

Dagwaaging.—When it’s fall...

Gigibabiinzikawaagane.—S/he wears a coat.

Gikinoo’amaagoziwag.—They go to school.

Nimikaan weba’aagonaan.—I find a shovel.

Gigigiminjikaawane.—You wear mittens.

Manoominikewag.—They harvest wild rice.

Nindizhaa gitigaaning.—I go to a garden.

Nindaashiga’igemin.—We split wood.

Miskobagizi.—S/he has red leaves.

(to the) South—Zhaawan(ong)

(to the) North—Giiwed(ong),

(to the) East—Waaban(ong)

(to the) West—Ningabii’an (ong)

Eya’!—Yes!

VAI’s patterns above:

S/he...—Root verbs.

#3 is a VTI.

1. Bijjinaago in ___-izhaa iwidi gichi-gitigaaning.

2. ___gigiminjikaawane noongom agwajiin

3. Inganawaab giiwed(ong) waawaateg.

4. Noongom, ___gigibabiinzikawaagane imaa.

5. Manoominike ___. Niwii-manoominike dash.

6. ___! Gakina-awiiya dagwaaging, Ojibwemodaa!

Giwii—

—wag

—ong

Nin

—gii

Translations:

Niizh—2 A. I am reading the book “Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwe.” B. Basswood tree(s). We make rope. C. Balsam fir(s), evergreen tree(s). S/he makes good medicine. D. We love strawberry(ies) here. E. Black ash tree. Perhaps you make a black ash basket. F. Tamarack tree. Weave a basket. G. Look at the wild rice over there!

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Gisinaa 2. Izhaadaa 3. Giizis 4. Agwajiing 6. Omaa Across: 5. Gidoozhiitaa 7. Minik 8. Dibikak

Niiwin-4 1. Yesterday, I went over there to the large garden. (gii-) 2. I wear mittens now outside. (Nin-) 3. I look to the north when there is a display of the northern lights. (-ong) 4. Today, you will want to wear a coat there. (Giwii-) 5. They harvest wild rice. I will harvest wild rice as well. (-wag) 6. Yes! Everybody as it is fall, let’s all speak Ojibwe! (Eya’)

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. The grammar patterns may help a beginner voice inanimate and animate nouns and verbs correctly, as well as create questions and negate statements. 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 lynn@glifwc.org. © 2022 Shelly Ceglar • Edited by Jennifer Ballinger, Saagajiwe-Gaabawiik