



Ojibwemotaadiwag Anishinaabewakiing.

They speak Ojibwe to each other in Indian Country.

Ziigwan. Niwii-tibaajim. Ganabaj, ingii-pawaadaan i'iw aazhooningwa'on. Aazhooningwa'on gii-wawezhichigaade. Manidoominensikaan gii-izhinaagwad dibishkoo waabigwaniin miinawaa waatebagoon. Obiminigaadaanaawaa ininiwag. Awenen gaa-gashkigwaadang? Amanj iidog. Ganabaj ina gii-miinigoowizi? Ganabaj wii-pwaanzhiiwi'o. Mii'iw. Noongom ozhitaatoon! Ziigwang indizhaamin. Ambe agwajiing! Izhaadaa iskgamiziganing! Indayaanan onow mitigo-negwaakwaanan, gaye biskitenaaganan. Inga-biindaakoojigemin. Mii'iw, gichi-miigwech.

(It is spring. I want to tell a story. Perhaps, I dreamt of that bandolier bag. The bag was decorated. The beadwork looked like flowers and bright leaves. Men carry it on their shoulders. Who sewed it? I am not certain. Maybe he received a gift? Perhaps he wears dance regalia. That's it. Now get it ready. When it is spring we go. Let's go outside! Let's all go to the sugarbush! I have these sap taps and sap buckets. We will make an offering of tobacco. That's it, thanks a lot.)

Bezhiɡ—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.

More than bezhiɡ (one)
>—> Pluralization:
NA's Noun/Animate-living beings suffix **-g, ag, oog, wag, yag**
Inini, Ininiwag—Man, Men
Ikwe, Ikwevag—Woman, Women
Odaabaan, Odaabaanag—Car, Cars
Animate pluralizations end in **G**!
>—> Pluralization:
NI's Noun/Inanimate—non-living things suffix **-n, -an, -oon, -iin, or -wan**
Onaagan, Onaaganan—Bowl, Bowls
Miikana, Miikanan—Path/Road, Roads
Nishkiinzhiɡ, Nishkiinzhiɡoon—My eye, My eyes
Inanimate pluralization end in **N**!

Niizh—2

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

A. Bezhiɡ waabigwan, Niizh waabigwaniin. Niswi aamoog.
B. Niiwin ininaatigoog, Naanan akikoog. Ningodwaaswi ikwewag.
C. Niizhwaaswi asiniig. Gaye nishwaaswi mishiiminaatigoog.
D. Gidagimag zhaangaswi mitigoog iwidi. Gichi-miigwech.
E. Gidagimag midaaswi aandegwag. Giwedining bimisewag.
F. Aaniin endaso-diba'iganek?
G. Gigizhebaawaa-gad noongom.
H. Ga-dibika wayiiba.

Aabita-dibikad. It is midnight.

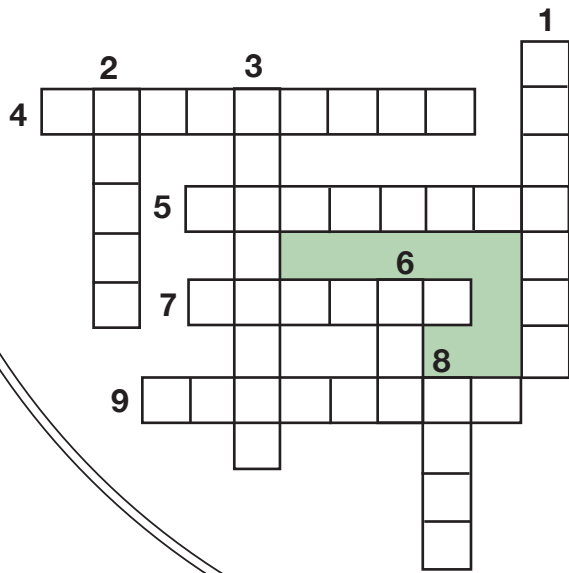
S D E A M
N I S O A Z
I B S W A M G
M I T I G O O G
N K O E O I I O N
O A G K J W K O G I
O D I O S A M W D K E
W K I I Z A O N E S W E
A G N A A N D E G W A G
D A S I N I I G O H A A
O W A Y I I B A I Z B G
M Z H A A N G A S W I I

Niswi—3

IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

- Down:
- It is spring.
 - I wonder
 - men
 - question marker
 - come towards me

- Across:
- flower
 - When/as it's spring.
 - that's it
 - car, sled, wagon



Naawakwe.—It is noon.

Online Resources
ojibwe.lib.umn.edu
ojibwe.net
glifwc.org
glifwc-inwe.com

Niiwin—4

Waabigwan(iin)—Flower(s)
VTI: Waabandan!—See it!
Niwaabandaan.(an)—I see it.(those)
Niwaabandaan **oginii-waabigwaa**.—I see a rose.
Giwaabandaan(an) ina agobizowin(an)?
—You see it (those) lady slipper(s)?
Bagizowin(an)—Swamp milkweed(s)
Wiingashk(oon)—Sweet grass(es)
Giizisobagoons—Tall coneflower
Waabashkikiibag—Labrador Tea
Wiingashk—Sage
Ode'im(in)(an)—Strawberry(strawberries)
Moosewijiibik—Field Mustard
Apikweshkway—Cattail

Word source: **Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa**

1. _____ waabandaan _____ iniw ode'im(in).
2. Ningii-waabandaanan _____.
3. Gaye, ningii-waabadaanan _____.
4. Waabandan! _____-waabandaan ina waabashkikiibag?
5. _____ zaagi' _____ apikweshkwayag.
6. Ani-niibing, apegish menoseyeg agwajiing.
- Ni- -an
Gigii-
waabigwaniin
Nin- -aag
agobizowinan

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Translations:

Niizh—2 A. One flower. Two flowers. Three bees. B. Four maple trees. Five buckets. Six women. C. Seven rocks. Also eight apple trees. D. You count nine trees over there. Thank you. E. Count ten crows. To the north they fly. F. What time is it? G. It is morning now. H. It will be night soon.

Niswi—3 Down: 1. Ziigwan 2. Amanj 3. Ininiwag 6. Ina 8. Ambe Across: 4. Waabigwan 5. Ziigwang 7. Mii'iw 9. Odaabaan

Niiwin-4 1. I see those strawberries. (Ni- -an) 2. I saw the flowers (waabiganiin). 3. Also, I saw the lady slippers (agobizowinan). 4. See it! Did you see the labrador tea? (Gigii-) 5. I love the cattails. (Nin- -aag). 6. As summer begins, I hope you all have good luck/happenings outside.

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 pio@glifwc.org.
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