

Fishing continues in biboon

The cold weather is here and it's time to hit the ice! Every biboon (winter) the lakes and rivers freeze over. The ice is so thick that you can safely walk out to your favorite fishing spots.

Sometimes the ice is so thick you can drive a vehicle out on the ice. Nindede (my father) tells me that we should always wait until there is at least 4-6 inches of solid ice on the water. We check each season by drilling a couple of holes close to shore with an auger.

Nindede has both a hand auger, and an electric auger for drilling holes. I can drill a hole with the hand auger in about five minutes flat, but the electric auger only takes me one minute.

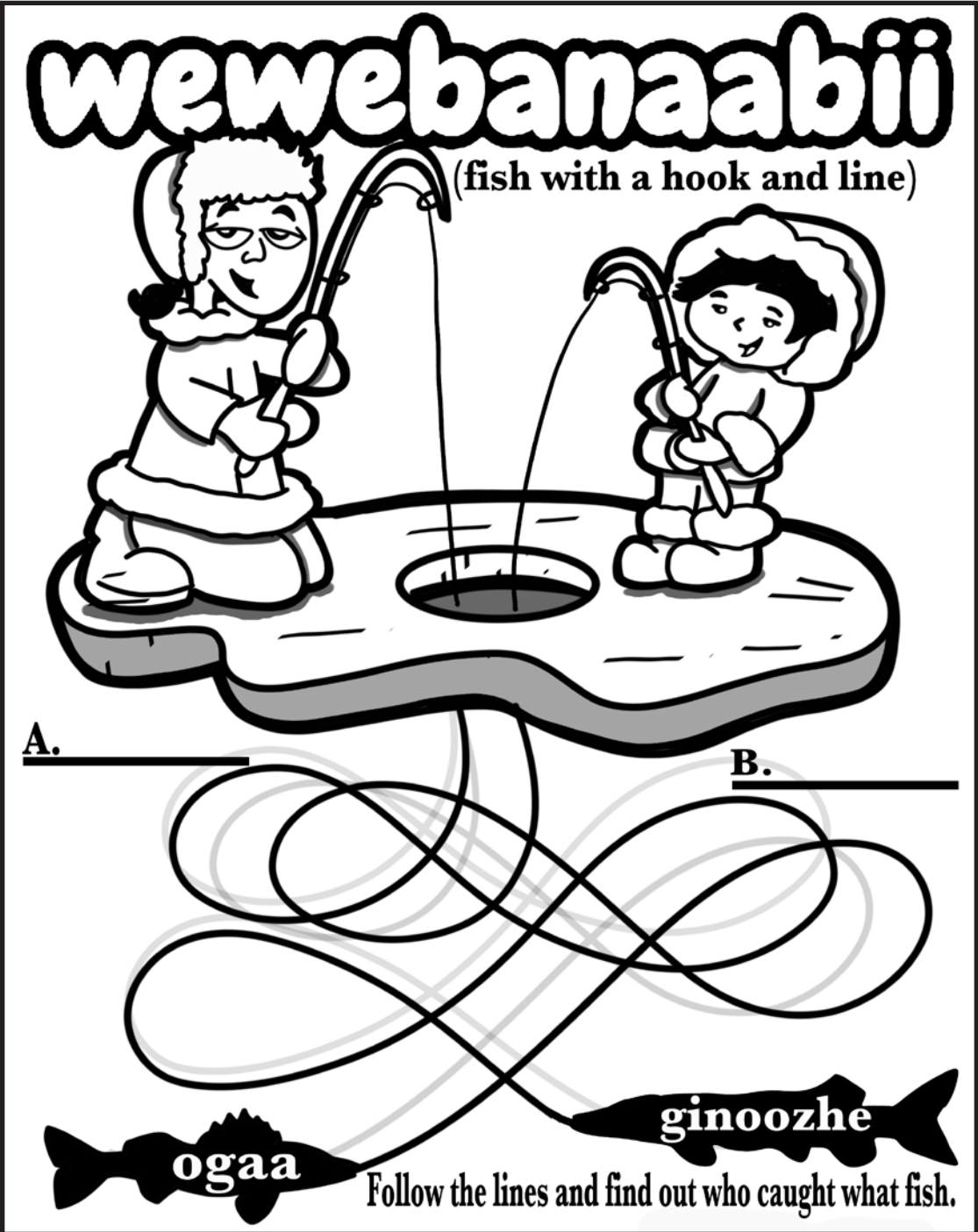
Before we even set foot on the ice we offer ase-maa for safe access to the water and to potentially catch some giigoonyag (fish). We set up two different fishing styles, Akwa'waa—spearing through the ice, and wewebanaabii—hook and line fishing. I love to do both!

We spend almost all day out on the ice, fishing, telling stories, eating snacks and exploring. We have been taught to be patient when we harvest giigoonyag. We usually don't catch a fish every single minute, so it's good to get used to the beautiful cold weather and to have fun while you wait.

I can tell when a giigoonh is interested in my bait. I sometimes use live grubs or minnows as bait. I feel a little "tap" on my ice fishing pole. Then it's usually followed by a "hit" and I know that I need to set the hook. I jerk my wrist and then I know the giigoonh is on my hook. I reel up the line and sure enough, a beautiful ogaa (walleye) is on my line. Next time I hope to catch a ginoozhe (northern pike).

Nindede and I are going to cook up this ogaa for a late lunch—so I have to run. Gigawaabamin! (Complete the code buster below to see the translation.)

—B. Jennings



CODE BUSTER

Each letter is assigned a number, match the numbers to the letter and uncover the hidden message.

" " " " " "

1 8 1 3 4 3 3 5 3 15 8 7

(" ")

2 6 6 13 14 12 9 3 10 6 11



1	g	2	s	3	a	4	w	5	b
6	e	7	n	8	i	9	L	10	t
11	r	12	u	13	y	14	o	15	m

Activities by Josh Whitebird, Fond du Lac Ojibwe

Draw a line from the Ojibwe word to the English word

akwa'waa	fish
biboon	hook and line fishing
gigawaabamin	my father
giigoonh	northern pike
ginoozhe	see you later
nindede	spearing through the ice
ogaa	walleye
wewebanaabi	winter

Answers: Wewebanaabi—A. ginoozhe; B. ogaa. Code Buster—Gigawaabamin—akwa'waa→spearing through the ice; biboon→winter; gigawaabamin→see you later; giigoonh→fish; ginoozhe→northern pike; nindede→my father; ogaa→walleye; wewe-banaabi→hook and line fishing.