

AN OGICHIDAA STORYTELLERS  
VIDEO SERIES

# Every Step: A Healing Circle

EDUCATION MATERIALS



“ This is our way of life.  
If we follow this path  
we will be  
strong again. ”

— *Lee Obizaan Staples,  
St. Croix Ojibwe*



WISCONSIN  
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# Ogichidaa Storytellers Video Series

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### Introduction

The successful reclamation and exercise of Ojibwe treaty rights in the late twentieth century is one of the defining moments in the history of the Anishinaabe (also referred to as Ojibwe or Chippewa) people in Wisconsin and central Great Lakes region. It was also a turning point in relations between the state of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota and the eleven federally recognized Ojibwe sovereign nations, which includes the following:

- [Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)
- [Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)
- [Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)
- [Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)
- [Sokaogon Chippewa Community \(Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa\)](#)
- [St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin](#)
- [Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)
- [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](#)
- [Bay Mills Indian Community](#)
- [Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)
- [Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe](#)

### Purpose

The purpose of these materials is to support the use of the Ogichidaa Storytellers Videos in grades 6–12 classrooms. Included are enduring understandings and essential questions to frame learning, extension activities to connect the past to the present and the future, a glossary of key vocabulary words, and lesson ideas for the six Ogichidaa Storytellers Videos.

### Enduring Understanding

The United States (US) federal government is responsible for providing for the welfare and well-being of all Native people and nations and non-Native populations within its national boundaries, including territorial possessions. When a government fails to uphold these obligations and responsibilities, ramifications extend far beyond the moment and those immediately involved.

## Essential Questions

- What obligations does a governing authority (ex: US federal government) have to adhere to its treaty agreements?
- How does intent play a role in the consequences of action or inaction?
- What circumstances can lead people to becoming dependent on another for their survival?
- How do ceremonies and memorials help communities maintain an active relationship with the past?
- What do the stories we keep and pass on tell us about our past, present, and future?
- What motivates individuals or groups to work for change in society?

## Key Series Terms

<b>Anishinaabe</b>	how the Ojibwe refer to themselves or the original people
<b>Cede or Ceded</b>	to give up or yield, especially by treaty
<b>Chippewa</b>	mistranslation of Ojibwe by Europeans (Ojibwe=Ochippwe=Chippewa)
<b>Cultural Revitalization</b>	in this case, meaning to renew, relearn, and teach traditions, lifeways, foodways, language, religion, etc.
<b>Federally Recognized</b>	officially acknowledged by the US government as a sovereign nation; used to refer to eleven American Indian nations of Wisconsin that have an official government-to-government relationship with the United States
<b>Indigenous</b>	meaning the original inhabitants of the land or territory
<b>Nation</b>	a community of people with its own government, land, and territory
<b>Ojibwe</b>	interchangeable with Anishinaabe; “oji” meaning puckering as in leather on moccasins
<b>Oral History</b>	spoken word stories passed down from generation to generation
<b>Reaffirmation</b>	to affirm something again, especially to strengthen or confirm
<b>Retain or Retained</b>	to keep or maintain
<b>Sovereignty</b>	freedom from outside control; inherent right to rule
<b>Special Relationship or Federal Trust Responsibility</b>	referring to the treaties between American Indian nations and the federal government of the United States
<b>Territory</b>	a geographic area under the control of a government
<b>Test Case</b>	a legal action whose purpose is to set precedent
<b>Treaty Rights</b>	claims specifically referred to in legally binding documents between American Indian nations and the United States
<b>Turning Point</b>	a major change that affects all involved

## Introduction

The 1960s and 1970s were a tumultuous time in the history of the United States. Compare the actions of the Ojibwe nations with other protests and social justice movements during this time. Consider the following for inclusion in your studies:

- The Fair Housing Movement in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- The Civil Rights Movement (nationwide)
- The ERA movement (nationwide)
- The Countercultural Revolution (nationwide)
- The assassinations of President John Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Malcolm X

National American Indian movements, social justice, protest, acts

- American Indian Movement (AIM) 1968
- Indian Civil Rights Act (ICRA) 1968
- Occupation of Alcatraz Island 1969
- Trail of Broken Treaties Caravan Arrives in Washington, D.C. 1972
- Occupy Wounded Knee 1973
- Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act 1975
- The Longest Walk 1978
- Indian Religious Freedom Act 1978
- Indian Child Welfare Act 1978

## Some questions to consider

- What groups of people were protesting or exercising their right to freedom of assembly? What guarantees these rights?
- What did these groups have in common? What differences can you find?
- What groups of people were targets of protests?
- What reactions did these groups receive from the public, news, etc?
- Why did the leaders of these groups become targets?
- What outcomes did the people participating in these movements want to achieve? What did they gain from their efforts? What did they lose in their struggles?

Choose a way to best represent your findings. Consider inviting a guest speaker on a topic that you find particularly interesting or would like to learn more about. *\*Reminder: the invited guest speaker should be supporting the instruction of what students have been learning and should not be replacing instruction of the teacher.*

Finally, modern social justice movements, No Back Forty Mine near the Menominee, the proposed Penokee Hill mines near Bad River, and the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline, are too recent to be considered history, but they are worth studying through a sociological lens.

- What thread connects current movements such as Standing Rock, Black Lives Matter, and #metoo?
- How are current movements extensions of past movements and how are they unique to their time and place?
- How has the advent of the internet and World Wide Web, social media communities such as reddit, Facebook, and Twitter, and video streaming services like YouTube affected the way people organize themselves and disseminate information?

# Every Step: A Healing Circle

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### Video Summary

*Every Step: A Healing Circle* centers on the Healing Circle Run. In 1989, the Anishinaabe Solidarity Relay began as a response to the resounding racism and hatred directed towards Ojibwe people throughout the region at boat landings and other communal spaces. The animosity that spilled into communities, schools, and even churches created great hardship for Ojibwe communities and their harvesters.

Today, the Healing Circle Run continues to connect Ojibwe communities across Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Through collective running, walking, and prayer, it provides healing and relief. The annual event also serves as a reminder to both participants and observers of the commitment, efforts, and resiliency of the tribal nations that have survived decades of trauma, violence, and abuse.

### Students can show an understanding of the series Enduring Understanding through the following

- Articulate the *Enduring Understanding* with supporting evidence from the video.
- Identify the turning points in the video for the Ojibwe and the non-Native people of Wisconsin.
- Present (in any form) the conflict in reaffirming the rights of the Ojibwe to hunt, fish, and gather on Ceded Territory in northern Wisconsin as described in the video.
- Define and interpret the past, present, and future relationships between federal, state, county, local, and tribal governments.

### Video Content Questions

- Why is leadership important to both individuals and communities?
- Why was it important to reflect positivity during those was first runs and how did it impact both the runners and the communities they visited?
- What is historic trauma and how is it addressed in this video?
- Explain the ties between the mundane (running) and the spiritual (healing) as evidenced in this video.

## Suggested Activities

- Discuss the significance of this quote from the video: “We do not plan to be a radical group that will incite further hate and violence. We will be a group of athletes that have no boundaries, political ties, or motives other than unity, peace, and healing.”
- Create an oral history by asking an elder relative or community member to talk about their life story. Brainstorm your own list of questions by carefully considering the person you are interviewing as well as the audience for your oral history project. Suggested questions can include:
  - How did where grew up impact your childhood?
  - What favorite games or activities did you play growing up? How did you play them?
  - What do you most want people to know about your life?
  - Consider expanding your project by contextualizing your subject’s life with national and international events.
    - What was happening in the world around your subject?
    - How did events beyond their control influence their lives?
- Work with your teacher to determine how your oral history project will be stored and distributed. Many institutions collect and preserve oral histories. Consider contacting your local historical society, the Wisconsin Historical Society, a local or tribal museum, local or tribal library, or tribal historic preservation office for recommendations.
- Put together an after-school event celebrating these oral histories. Work with your library media specialist, teacher, and other educators to create a special event night at your school dedicated to the history of your community.
- As a class, debate the following question: Should the rights of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups be protected in the United States and its territories? Why or why not? Defend your position with evidence from the video *Every Step: A Healing Circle*. In your notebook, write down your answer to the question of why or why not. Cite your evidence from the video below your answer. As you watch other videos in the series, continue to cite evidence below. Consider drawing a horizontal line between video entries and titling each section in order to help track what piece of evidence came from which video.
- Compare and contrast the rights of the citizens of United States territories with citizens of the United States and dual-citizens of tribal nations. For example: American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, the fifty states, the eleven federally recognized American Indian nations of Wisconsin, etc. Construct a Venn diagram to show your results.



# Oral History Question Worksheet



## Pre-Interview

Oral histories are a primary source historians use to gain personal stories of events from the past. These histories are a recollection of people, experiences, emotions, and thoughts from a specific time or event in history. Use the following guide below to help shape your interview questions.

## Video Content Questions

- Choose a theme as a class.
- What historical information are you looking for?
- What type of person do you want to interview?

## Suggested Activities

- Research the culture of the person you will be interviewing.
  - Respect for traditions around sharing of information.
  - Specific greetings and salutations.
  - Expectations of privacy.
- Transcript review may be necessary before publication to the following:
  - Ensure that traditional knowledge is treated appropriately or removed at the request of your subject.
  - Anticipate any potential conflicts regarding privacy.



# Designing and Conducting the Interview

- Introduction: Create a script that you will start the recorded interview with. You need to introduce yourself, the narrator, the date, the place the interview is taking place, the purpose of the interview, and an explanation of the project.
- Example: This is [first, last name]. Today's date is [month, day, year]. I am at [location, city, state, at the house of \_\_\_\_]. I am interviewing [first, last name] about [theme/topic] for [class or project name]. Also with us is [first, last name] who is [job they are doing to aid in the preservation of interview].
- Gather biographical background of your narrator: full name, birth date, birthplace, and occupations. Write three warm-up questions to ask based on this biographical information to uncover more information.
- Write four open-ended questions that provoke stories and narratives to assist in gathering information or details about the event, time period, or experience you are researching.
- Write potential follow-up questions to clarify or expand on information from your narrator.
- Make an appointment and be on time.
- Consider bringing a culturally appropriate gift.
- Explain to your narrator what the project is about and why you are interested in learning more on the topic.
- Let your subject know how their information will be used and disseminated.
- Make sure your narrator agrees to be recorded and signs the release.
- Bring your notes and other information along to guide the interview. When the narrator strays away from your theme or questions, use your notes to return to the subject.
- If unclear about a response, repeat what you understood them to say to verify it is correct.
- Make sure you thank your narrator for their time and how appreciative you are of what they shared with you.
- Iterate a timeline detailing steps to publication, including time necessary for transcript review or privacy concerns.
- Send a thank you letter upon your return home.

Adapted from: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Park City Museum. Engaging Students with Primary Sources. Retrieved from:

File:///C:/Users/JH3/Documents/Wisconsin%20Historical%20Museum/Object%20Lesson%20Plans/Oral-History-Lesson-Handouts.pdf



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