

LESSON FOUR

LANGUAGE RECLAMATION

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation, along with other groups of Potawatomi, works to encourage new language learners from a variety of backgrounds. Currently, there are fewer than 10 speakers of Potawatomi as a first language.

OKLAHOMA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

- X.4.R.5- Students will acquire new vocabulary, relate words to prior knowledge, and use vocabulary in various contexts.

The X in the standard denotes that there are standards that are identical in wording but occur across grades 1 through 5.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

In the first lesson, students had the opportunity to explore the CHC resources and perhaps even visit the dictionary to learn more about Potawatomi words.

You may want to invite students to revisit the discussion on why the people who made the creation story videos felt it was important to include particular words in Bodéwadmimwen rather than in English.

- Why is it important for a tribe to maintain their language?
- What kinds of influence does language have on culture?

ACTIVITY

Print and cut up the 30 pre-generated cards. Students are invited to use the vocabulary sheet as needed.

Designate one student to be the caller, which can rotate between winners. Encourage the caller to use the vocab sheet to call out the English word, and have players mark the Potawatomi on their cards.

OPTIONAL DE-BRIEF

Invite students to consider the value of using the language in different contexts, outside of prayer and ceremonies.

What challenges might come with language reclamation in the context of a removed tribe?

How has this connected with (if at all) the other language reclamation students have learned about?

ASSESSMENT

3-2-1 Response:

Students will respond to a 3-2-1 prompt using the new kedwnen words. They will write 3 sentences correctly using one word each per sentence, choose 2 new things they learned from the lesson, and finally end with 1 question that they still have. It would be effective to go over these in class as a reflection activity, though this is not a necessity.



Contact CPN Department of Education with any questions at education@potawatomi.org or 405-695-6028.