POTAWATOMI

Morning Song

Music has always been an important part of Potawatomi culture. Many Potwatomi ceremonies, pow wows and other festivities begin with music. Many stories say that the sound of the rattle accompanied the beginning of creation.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students will create their own gourd rattle or Shishigwen (Shee sheeg win). Supplies needed:

- Styrofoam cup with lid
- Tape to seal lid
- Rod to go through the cup (rattle handle)
- Rocks, marbles or beans to fill the rattle.

Students will listen to an audio recording of the Morning Song and learn to sing it themselves.

The rattle will be used when singing the song to create steady beat. Students should be encouraged to decorate their cups with different designs. Design suggestions might include floral designs which are very characteristic to Potawatomi people.

Enesh ke yan ngom, Enesh ke yan ngom, Enesh ke yan, Enesh ke yan
(As I get out of bed today, As I get out of bed today, As I get out of bed, As I get out of bed)

(Chorus)
HoHoHoHo
HeYa, HeYa, YaHeYa, YaHeYa

Ebseg wi yan ngom, Ebseg wi yan ngom, Ebseg wi yan, Ebseg wi yan
(As I rise today, As I rise today, As I rise, As I rise)

(Chorus)

Emigwetchyan ngom, Emigwetchyan ngom, Emigwetchyan, Emigwetchyan
(As I give thanks today, As I give thanks today, As I give thanks, As I give thanks)

(Chorus)

Ebgednegadeyan ngom, Ebgednegadeyan ngom, Ebgednegadeyan, Ebgednegadeyan
(As I offer this song today, As I offer this song today, As I offer this song, As I offer this song)

(Chorus)

Emnedokasyan ngom, Emnedokasyan ngom, Emnedokasyan, Emnedokasyan
(As I do this spiritual thing today, As I do this spiritual thing today, As I do this spiritual thing, As I do this spiritual thing)

(Chorus)

Edebanayan ngom, Edebanayan ngom, Edebanayan, Edebanayan
(As I love today, As I love today, As I love, As I love)

(Chorus)