



<https://reflectionsoutdoors.wordpress.com/native-quotes-and-teachings/>

Curve Lake Anishinaabe Peoples

Culture, Issues and Solutions

By Rylie Van Halteren and Koral Lambert



<http://ourmothertongues.org/language/Ojibwe/9>



http://www.melodymckiver.com/event-photography/img_8909/

Creation Story

People were fighting and not getting along, so Kitchi-Minitou flooded the Earth to purify it. Nanaboozhoo was the only person to survive, along with the animals. Nanaboozhoo stayed on a log, looking for a place to live, but there was none. He tried to swim to the bottom of the water to get earth, but failed. The animals then attempted to do so, but they all failed. The muskrat tried and finally got earth and used all of his energy to swim back up. He floated to the surface, but died from lack of air. The muskrat sacrificed his life for the life on Earth, so it could begin again. The turtle offered his back to hold the earth so it could flourish, and the four winds blew and expanded the earth. It grew into what's now known as North America and to this day it is known as Turtle Island.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/8022105561314515/>

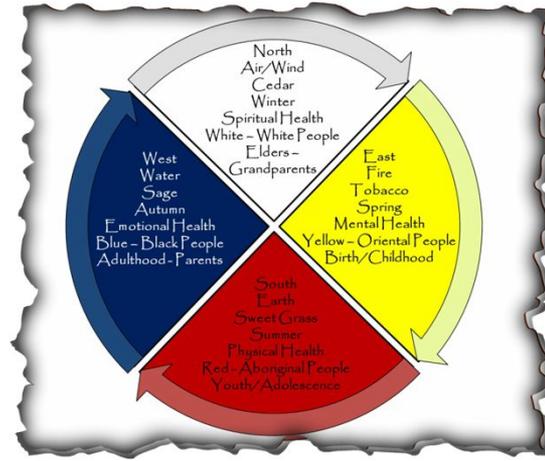
Culture

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- Lived in wigwams
- Were mainly hunters and fishers
- Moved around and usually stayed near the water
- Believe the creator made all things and they believe in the medicine wheel teachings.

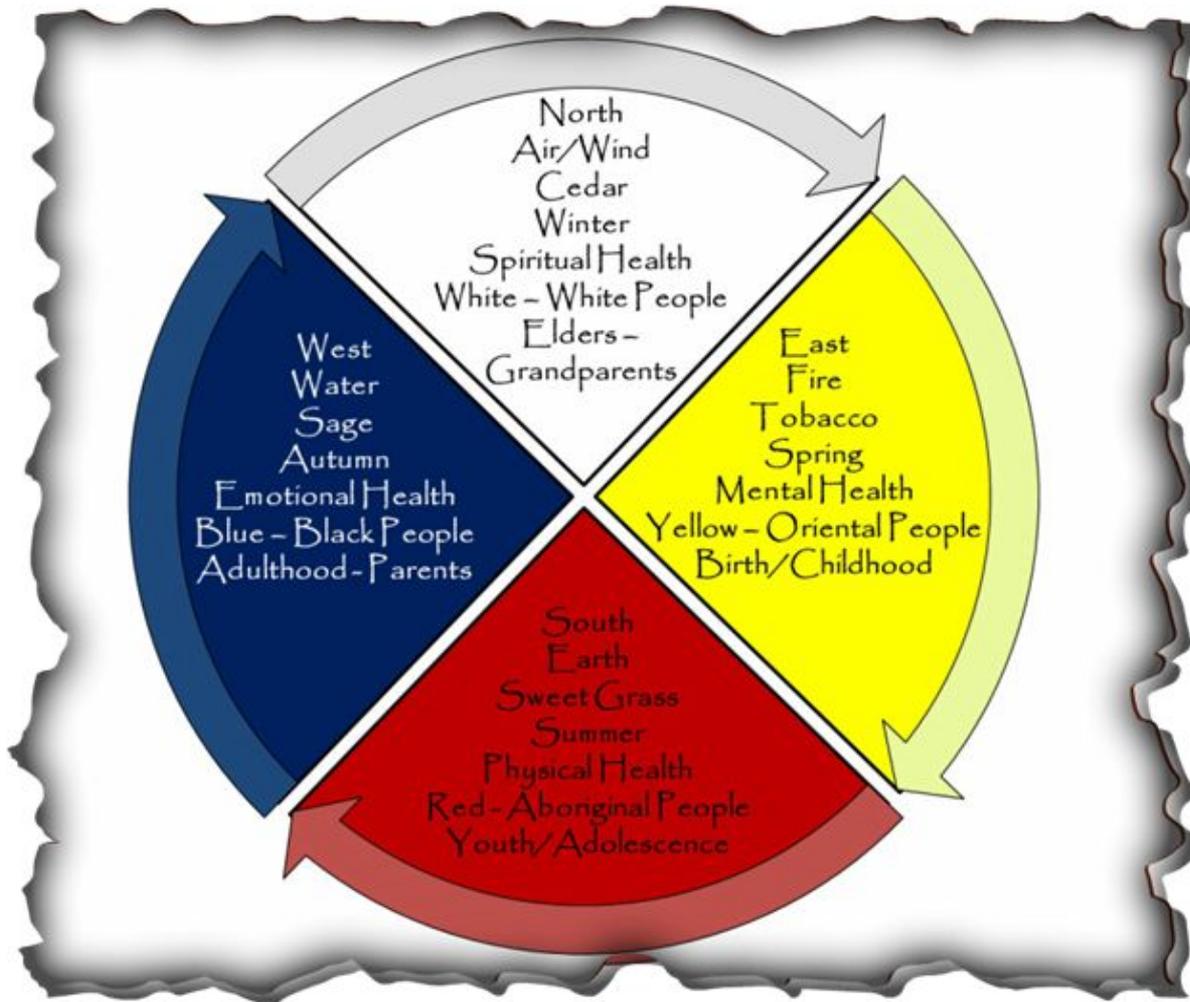


<http://nmai.si.edu/environment/ojibwe/People.aspx>



<http://ojibweresources.weebly.com/medicine-wheel.html>

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History

- When the Europeans arrived, the first nations helped them with food and shelter, but the Europeans began to take over.
- The Mississauga people had to move out of their territory to stay away from conflict from the fur trade, and impending disease.
- Eventually, the government negotiated many written treaties to set land aside for the Aboriginal Peoples and Curve Lake Reserve was established.
- In the 1880s, the government and the churches created residential schools for aboriginal children to attend. The environment in the schools was terrible; the children were not allowed to speak their language or practice their culture. They were forced to become Christian Canadians. Many different types of abuse took place in these schools, such as physical, verbal, and sexual abuse. The last residential school closed down in 1990 and thousands of children had gone through the schools, which led to a generation of abused and damaged adults who then had children and passed on their teachings of abuse and inability to love.
- In the process of residential schools, aboriginal culture was lost. This is why it is so important to teach aboriginal children about their culture and language to try to keep it alive.



<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/at-least-3-000-deaths-linked-to-indian-residential-schools-new-research-1.1161081>

Anishinaabe History ^{Rylie}

Food, Clothing, and Tools

Food- The Anishnaabe were mainly hunters and fishers. They would hunt deer, moose, and beaver and fish for perch, pickerel, and pike. Though they also highly valued corn, beans, and squash (Known as the three sisters). Other traditional foods were bannock and maple syrup.

Clothing- They would make their clothing from animal skins and their usual outfit consisted of cloaks and sandals. Women would often wear beads in their hair and would sometimes go topless in the summer due to heat.

Tools- The Anishnaabe mainly used tools designed for hunting such as the bow and arrows, spears, and knives.



Corn-Left Deer- Right
http:
//ojibwenativeamericans.
weebly.com/food.html



**Men's Moose
Hide Coat**
<https://www.pinterest.com/sdtracer/anishinaabe/>



Womens Dress
<https://www.pinterest.com/jodieandrich/native-beauty/>

Anishinaabe Culture ^{Rylie}

Dance

Bear Dance (mak•wə'cim-o):

Men and women would form a large circle. The dancers are led by their chief, who sings the Bear Dance song while playing a drum. The dance starts in a counterclockwise direction. The Chief will sometimes bend down, turn, and dance backwards in an imitation of the bear. . . They continue circling until the song is finished.

Instruments/Props

- Tin can rattles filled with pebbles
- Drums

Hand Drum

<http://www.siestacrafts.co.uk/music/hand-drums.aspx>



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Dance

The Round Dance

- One of a set of songs are used, mostly improvised
- Tend to be humorous
- Drum is often suspended from the branches of a tree
- Dancers form a circle (men tend to be at the head)
- Rattles are sometimes used
- Dancers trot to the left in close proximity in time to the music
- Women and children join for fun
- Sometimes the dancers will turn and dance the other way



Round Dance

<http://o.canada.com/news/honour-the-apology-rallies-residential-schools>

Dance

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Jingle Dancing

This dance is performed by the women and originates in northern Minnesota where the Ojibwe first used it. There is a story that goes along with its origination. When “ a medicine man's granddaughter was very ill. He had a dream in which a spirit wearing the jingle dress came to him and told him to make one of these dresses and put it on his daughter to cure her. When he awoke, he and his wife proceeded to assemble the dress as described by the spirit of his dream. When finished, they and others brought his granddaughter to the dance hall and she put on the dress. During the first circle around the room, she needed to be carried. During the second circle around the room, she could barely walk and needed the assistance of several women. The third circle around the room she found she could walk without assistance and during the fourth circle around the room, she danced. The jingle dress is made of a cloth, velvet or leather base adorned with jingles made out of a shiny metal.” The small metal pieces are shaped like bells to create the jingling sound. It takes anywhere from 400 to 700 jingles for an adult dress to be covered and the dresses are often designed by the dancers themselves. The dance itself consists of small controlled movements and often the dancer moves in a zigzag pattern to represent the journey of life.

Jingle Dancer-Left
<http://cssui.crazycrow.com/site/photo-galleries/powwow-dance-style>



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Powwows



https://www.algomau.ca/student_life/anishinaabe_student_s/

- Comes from the Algonquin word meaning medicine man or he who dreams.
- Is said to have originated from when the, “Original Man was lowered to the Earth and walked carefully through Creation; his movements would be emulated in the dancers’ steps.”
- Gathering of people where they celebrate life, not a re-enactment of past events – they are expressions of evolving people.
- The music for powwows is usually a song with non-words like tra-la-la, or with lyrics that tell a story. There is usually a strong drum beat in these songs because the drum represents Earth.



<http://www.7oaks.org/Resources/aboriginaleducation/Pages/June-2015.aspx>

In the present day, there are competitions (which anyone from any culture can compete in) with many different dances such as men’s/women’s fancy dance, men’s/women’s traditional, rabbit dance (couple), and the round dance.

Dances Today

- Men's Traditional
- Men's Straight Dance
- Women's Traditional Buckskin
- Women's Traditional Cloth
- Men's Grass Dance
- Women's Jingle Dance
- Men's Fancy Dance
- Women's Fancy Shawl

Left-Jingle Dancer
<http://circletrail.com/culture/powwow-dance-styles/jingle-dress-dance/>



**Willow Couture,3,
JingleDancer** <http://www.saultthisweek.com/2015/03/17/powwow-upholds-social-spiritual-traditions>



Jiingtamok Dancer
<http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com/jiingtamok.htm>

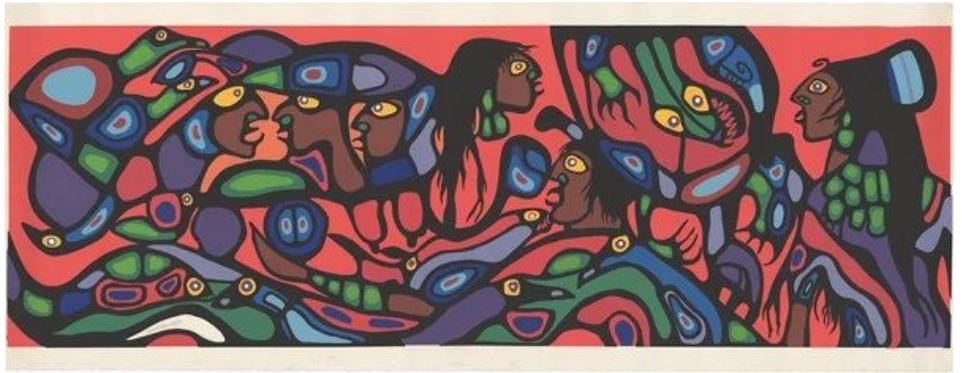
Culture

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Teachings

Spirit Names

They receive spirit names which connect them more to the spirit world. Traditional naming ceremonies are held. The child must take care of the name and find a path to honour it. They also may have certain colours assigned to them which represent powers. The colours help to focus and guide the person.



<http://blog.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/blog/posts/image-of-the-day-image-du-jour-32/>

Culture

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Healing

Healers

The Healers believe it is the spirits and creator working through them to help others. Some people are born with healing as their birthright and others go on a fast or vision quest and are shown their gifts or responsibilities from the spirits. All Healers are individual and do their healing differently. Some use sweat lodges and others work with plants, or heal with their hands. They all use sacred medicines for smudging and teas. Tobacco is used as an anti-inflammatory cream.

Medicine People

Healers are called medicine people if they work with plants to prepare medicines. They are constantly learning throughout their lives and must find out from the spirits how to make medicines for certain people.

Elders

Elders follow the traditional teachings of their ancestors. They do not have to be old; they just have to be respected and contribute to the community's spiritual development.



<https://reflectionsoutdoors.wordpress.com/2012/08/16/medicine-wheel-and-the-four-sacred-medicines/>

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Issues

Diabetes- A chronic sometimes fatal disease where the body cannot produce insulin properly. Insulin is the hormone that controls the amount of sugar in the blood and without it, it can result in high or low blood sugar levels which can damage the body.

Diabetes is one of the most common issues challenging First Nations. About 30% of Curve Lake's 860 people alone have diabetes (NADA, 2014), while approximately 8.6% of Canadians have diabetes (Canadian Diabetes Association, 2013). Diabetes can lead to many complications such as kidney disease and heart problems which can be fatal to the victim.

Solutions

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AOHC Symbol-
Left

http:
//campaign4nationald
rugcoverage.ca/who-
we-are/supporters/



- Association of Ontario Health Centres

Ontario health centres work to promote healthy living and well being across the province. They work to create an increased focus on the issues at hand to create lower hospital wait times and a healthier community in general.

- Blind River Health Centre

Curve Lake Health Centre:
[http://
www.curvelakefirstnation.ca/
documents/
HealthCentreBrochure.pdf](http://www.curvelakefirstnation.ca/documents/HealthCentreBrochure.pdf)

The Blind River Health Centre focuses on the major issue of diabetes. They provide diabetes education, prevention, and care systems. For example management and diabetes screening. [http:
//www.brdhc.on.ca/diabetes-centre/](http://www.brdhc.on.ca/diabetes-centre/)

There are many places not only in Ontario that help to support those who need it. For example, Ontario - Breakfast for Learning, Dedwadadehs Nye's Aboriginal Health Centre, the Diabetes Prevention Program.

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Issues

In the '60s, Chief Elsie Knott turned an old hearse into a school bus to transport teenagers from Curve Lake to Lakefield District Secondary School. At first there was racism, but the Curve Lake community and the school formed a very strong bond. The school is now facing closure due to lower enrolment and the Chief is considering the impacts of moving the kids to a different school in the city (Peterborough). At Lakefield High School, the First Nations kids are taught their local dialect, but the Chief fears this will not be upheld in a different school. Students made a video about what they love about their school and also some issues with going to a small school.



<http://www.mykawartha.com/news-story/5214909-how-long-can-lakefield-and-norwood-keep-their-high->

Solutions

- Turn the school into a trades-oriented school to give rural kids a head-start in successful trade
- Move students to Thomas A. Stewart school and intermediate kids to feeder schools
- Turn the building into a K-12 school
- Turn the building into a junior high school
- Move high school students to the city and Ridpath elementary school to the Lakefield school building

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