Anishinaabe people have lived in the upper Great Lakes region for hundreds of years. They live in harmony with the seasons and honor the gifts of the land. Each season, the Anishinaabe harvest many different plants and animals. The seasons are: ziigwan (spring), niibin (summer), dagwaagin (fall) and biboon (winter).

In ziigwan, Anishinaabe people harvest maple syrup. They tap aninaatigoog (maple trees) and boil down the sap to make delicious syrup and sugar. Harvesting giigoonyag (fish) has also been a long-time practice of the Anishinaabe. Spear- and netting is done in open water in the spring, but can also be done through the ice in winter! When Anishinaabe spear through the ice, they will often use decoy fish carved from basswood. These decoys attract larger fish under the ice.

In niibin, Anishinaabe pick berries and harvest manoomin (wild rice). Manoomin is considered a special gift from the Creator, and is an important part of the Anishinaabe migration story. According to oral tradition, centuries ago, the Anishinaabe people were taught to find the place where “food grows on water.” This journey brought them from the Atlantic coast to Madeline Island on Lake Superior. Today, manoomin can be harvested on lakes and rivers throughout the upper Midwest.

In dagwaagin and other times throughout the year, Anishinaabe hunt and set trap lines. Animal furs and skins can be used for clothing, moccasins, and snowshoes. Scraping and tanning hides to make leather is a long process, but the finished hides are thick enough and warm enough to even insulate a wiigiwaam (wigwam)! These hides helped keep our Anishinaabe ancestors safe and warm during the long, cold biboon.

The Anishinaabe people have maintained a respectful relationship with nimaamaa aki (Mother Earth) since the beginning of time. It is important to remember that as Anishinaabe, we have always relied upon plants and animals, and they have always taken care of us. Let’s continue taking care of the environment so that these resources are here for future generations.

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NAADOObii
BAGIDA’WAA
GiiWOSE
Complete the dot-to-dot and then color the ogaa (walleye).
Bimikawaananan (tracks)

Draw a line from the animal to the track that it makes.
Which picture is the same?
Circle the picture that is exactly the same as the picture on top of each group.
Addition

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____

____ + ____ = _____
Color the miskwadesi (turtle) using the example on the left.
1 bezhig
2 niizh
3 niswi

4 niiwin
5 naanan
6 ingodwaaswi

7 niizhwaaswi
8 ishwaaswi
9 zhaangaswi
10 midaaswi

color the miinan (blueberries) ozhaawashkwaa (blue) and the leaves ashkibagwaande (green)

color the ode'iminan (strawberries) miskwaa (red) and the leaves ashkibagwaande (green)

color the nagweyaab (rainbow) miinaaande (purple), ozhaawashkwaa (blue), okosimaanaande (orange), ozaawaa (yellow) and the clouds waabishkaa (white)
Migizi
MAKWA
WAABiZHESHi
Ojibwemowin (Ojibwe language)

naadoobii (s/he gathers sap)
iskigamizigan (sugarbush)
waaswaa (s/he spear fish by torchlight)
bagida’waa (fish with net)
manoominike (wild ricing)
giiwose (s/he is hunting)
aseke (s/he tans hides)
akwa’waa (s/he spear fish through the ice)

wiigiwaam (a wigwam/a lodge)
migizi (eagle)
makwa (bear)
nigig (otter)
waabizheshi (marten)
waaawaashkeshi (deer)
name (sturgeon)

Answers

beaver
deer
otter
bear

Giga-waabamin!
See you later!