



ANISHINABEMOWIN DEFINITIONS & PRONUNCIATION KEY



At the Ziibiwing Center we use our original language, Anishinabemowin, throughout the center, and in our printed materials. Our language is very important to us and it is one of the foundational elements of the center and the experience we offer to our visitors. Learning a new language can be very challenging and it provokes anxiety within many. We encourage you not to let that anxiety prevent you from learning to speak our beautiful language. We hope that this key is useful as you get started.

Anishinabemowin originally was not a written language, therefore there is no standardized spelling using the English alphabet. At the Ziibiwing Center we utilize what is called the "double vowel" system of spelling and pronunciation. The chart below shows how vowel sounds are pronounced using this system.

aa	as in knob	o	as in toe
oo	as in tune	i	as in bit
ii	as in see	e	as in ray
a/u	as in mug		

The following are phonetic pronunciations and definitions of some words used at our center:

The name of our center: Ziibiwing (zee-bi-wing) = place by the river

Our permanent exhibit: Diba Jimooyung (diba-jimoo-young) = telling our story

Our meeting rooms: Giigidiwigamig (gee-gidi-gahmig) = the place where speaking or discussion occurs

Our gift shop: Meshtoonigewinoong (maysh-toon-igay-winoong) = the place where we trade at

Our research center: Nindakenjigewinoong (nindah-cane-jigay-winoong) = the place where you find thing out

Our café: Shangewigamig (shawngay-wi-gahmig) = the place where you get nourished, fed.



ZIIBIWING CENTER
of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

The Midwest's Premier American Indian Museum
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Anishinabemowin Moccasin Vocabulary

