

Title

Inipi (Sweat Lodge).

Grade Level

7th grade.

Theme

Lakota *Inipi* ceremony.

Duration

3-4 days.

Goal

Students will know the sacred purpose of the *Inipi*.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to understand proper *Inipi* etiquette and the interrelatedness of the etiquette with Lakota origin and beliefs.

South Dakota Standards

SA6 – Multiple programs and pathways will support improved student achievement across the curriculum.

Cultural Concept

The purpose of the *Inipi* is to revitalize people spiritually and physically.

Cultural Background

Lakota culture's origins basic tenet is interrelatedness of all the "Powers of the universe: earth, and things which grow from the earth, water, fire, and air." The power of the water, rocks, fire, and air allows the participants of the *Inipi* to draw from that power for their spiritual and physical revitalization.

Student Activities

1. Listen to and read the "Rite of Purification" (See Teacher Note on Student Outline Activity).
2. Outline *Inipi* etiquette in journals.
3. Math prime factorization of 16, for the 16 poles of the *Inipi*.
4. Students make private lists of what they are thankful for during an *Inipi* (this should be a volunteer activity—students should not be forced to do this activity).
5. Create authentic *Inipi* models.
6. Write a 100-word reflection on understanding of purpose of *Inipi*.
7. Student assessment.

Resources

- Styrofoam mats for base of *Inipi* Lodge (2-3 ft. diameter).

- Electric fence wire (representing the willow constructs—material choice is up to instructor).
- Wire cutters.
- Material.
- Sticks.
- Small rocks/stones.
- Journal.
- Pencil.
- Paper.
- CD or tape player.
- CD or tape.
- *Inipi* picture diagram.
- Ruler.

Assessment

1. Written *Inipi* assessment (see assessment attached).

References

Lessert, J. (2005). *Inipi*. Unpublished manuscript.

Lessert, T. (2007). *Inipi: Sweat lodge*. Unpublished manuscript.

Black Elk, N. (1980). *Inipi: The rite of purification*. In J. E. Brown (Ed.), *The sacred pipe: Black Elk's account of the seven rites of the Oglala Sioux*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 31-43.

Developer

Janet L. Fleming-Martin

Date

24 June 2010

Inipi: The Rite of Purification
A Student Outline Activity

*Instructor Note: Instructor will have read and recorded pages 31-43 (*Inipi: The rite of purification*), Chapter III from Black Elk's book *The Sacred Pipe*. The instructor will have a room copy of the book setting by the recorder for students to follow while listening to the recording for a complete understanding of the *Inipi* ceremony.

Instructions: Have students copy the etiquette outline in their journals. Can put up on overhead, or make copies for students to put in their folder, or have students copy outline from hard copies of the outline. (I have found that many students do not understand what an outline looks like, so the process of having the students make an outline helps them with organization skills).

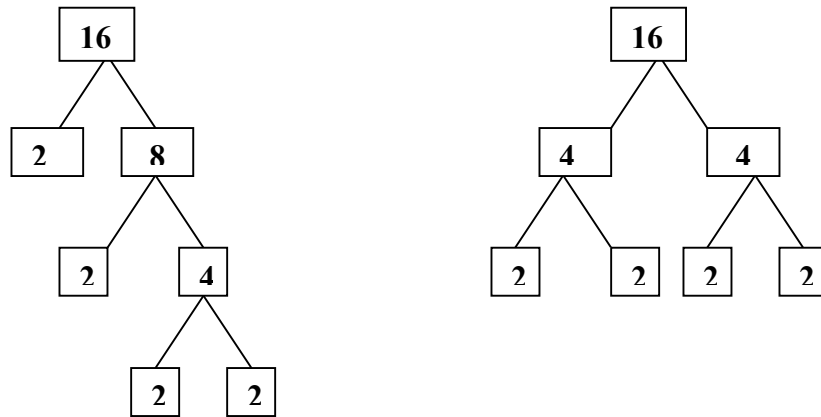
- I. *Inipi/Sweat Lodge*
 - a. Utilizes all the power of the universe: earth, water, fire, air
Water—Thunder-beings
Rocks—Grandmother Earth and indestructible
- II. *Inipi/Sweat Lodge Construction*
 - a. 12 to 16 young willows
 - b. Door to the east
 - c. Ten paces from lodge at the east sacred fireplace to heat the rocks
 - i. Fireplace construction
 1. four sticks running east and west
 2. on top of these four sticks running north and south
 3. around these sticks lean sticks as in a tipi
 - a. first on west side, then north, east and south
 4. rocks are then placed at these four directions
 5. many more rocks piled on top
 6. light fire on the east side
 - d. Central altar
 - i. Push a stick into the earth at center of the lodge
 - ii. Draw a circle from stick with a cord of rawhide
 - iii. Dig a round hole where the drawn circle was created
 - iv. Lay a sacred path with the dirt to the east
- III. *Inipi Etiquette*
 - a. *Inipi* Leader enters lodge alone with the pipe
 - b. Leader places pinches of tobacco at lodge's four corners
 - c. Glowing coal is placed at the center
 - d. Leader burns sweet grass and rubs smoke over his body and purifies the pipe
 - e. Tobacco is placed in the pipe
 - f. Leader leaves the lodge and follows the sacred path and places pipe on the mound
 - g. Leader and participants enter the lodge
 - i. Participants move around the lodge in a sun-wise direction and sit on the sacred sage
 - ii. Pipe is handed into the lodge

- iii. Participant at the west takes pipe and places it in front of him pointing the pipe towards the west
- iv. Rocks are handed into the lodge
- v. Pipe passes to participants and back to the leader who passes pipe to outside helper where pipe is refilled and then is placed on the sacred mound
- vi. For understanding of events and prayers follow the reading *Inipi: The Rite of Purification* from Black Elk's book *The Sacred Pipe* pages 31-43.

Student Activity: Prime Factorization (16 poles of the *Inipi*)

Instructions: Students should write the number 16 on a blank page in their student journal and then process the factorization of 16. After they have completed the factorization, the students should circle any sacred Lakota numbers. The students would circle the 16 and the fours as Lakota sacred numbers.

Answer Key:



Inipi Student Assessment

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Instructions: Read the questions below and circle the best answer(s) for each question.

1. The Rite of Purification is called?
 - a. Sundance
 - b. Inipi
 - c. Making a Relative
 - d. Vision Quest

2. What power of the universe is representative of the Thunder Beings?
 - a. Earth
 - b. Fire
 - c. Air
 - d. Water

3. If you have never participated in an *Inipi*, the best way to proceed is to?
 - a. Sit quietly and observe
 - b. Observe the actions of those running the ceremony and ask questions
 - c. Show respect and leave
 - d. Take notes

4. The sacred herb on the floor of the lodge is which of the following?
 - a. Sage
 - b. Sweet grass
 - c. Tobacco
 - d. Choke cherry berries

5. How many young willows are used for the *Inipi* lodge?
 - a. 8
 - b. 4
 - c. 28
 - d. 16

6. Make a prime factorization tree of the number 28 (use the space below this question to create your prime factorization tree).

7. The purpose of the *Inipi* ceremony is to (in the space below this question and answer series write an explanation of your answer?)
- a. Prepare for womanhood
 - b. Revitalize a person spiritually and physically
 - c. Help your relatives
 - d. Prepare for your future

8. What sacred object is used at the *Inipi* ceremony (write your answer on the blank line)?

9. What is the person called that leads the ceremony?
- a. Chief
 - b. Wakaŋ Taŋka
 - c. Leader
 - d. Helper

10. Write a 100 word reflection on your understanding of the meaning and purpose of the *Inipi* (use the space below and the back of the paper if you need more space).

_____ / 100 pts. possible