

# Ziigwang—When it is Spring

Ziigwang, nebaajig, goshkoziwag. Gigoshkozimin. Gibaapinakamigizimin. Giminwedaamin, aabawaag. Maajigaa. Gitigaanan gitigaadewan. Ozhaawashkwaa. Gaawiin waabishkaasinoon agwajiing. Giiwedinong bineshiiyag bimisewag, aandegwag, opichiwag, migiziyag, idash gekekweg. Makwoonsag, waagoshensag, ma'inganensag, dazhitaawag waanzhang. Miskwaadesiwag idash omakakiig goshkoziwag. Gizhiibiimin. Gizhoomiingwenimin.

(When it is spring, those who sleep, they wake up. We all wake up. We are excited. We are happy, when it is warm weather. The sap starts to run. Gardens, they are planted. It is green. It is not white outside. To the north birds they fly, crows, robins, eagles, and hawks. Cubs, baby foxes, wolf pups they play in the den. Turtles and frogs, they wake up. We all stretch our bodies. We all smile.)

## Bezbig—1

### OJIBWEMOWIN (Ojibwe Language)

Double vowel system of writing Ojibwemowin.

—Long vowels: AA, E, II, OO

Waabooz—as in father

Miigwech—as in jay

Aaniin—as in seen

Mooz—as in moon

—Short Vowels: A, I, O

Dash—as in about

Ingiw—as in tin

Niizho—as in only

—A glottal stop is a voiceless nasal sound as in A'aw.

—Respectfully enlist an elder for help in pronunciation and dialect differences.

### So Many

Daso—Preverb meaning a certain number, so many.  
 Daso-biboon—So many winters.  
 Daso-dibik—So many nights.  
 Daso-giizis—So many months.  
 Daso-anama'e-giizhigak—So many weeks, so many Sundays.  
 Daso-biboonigizi—So many years old.  
 Aaniin endaso-biboonigiziyan? How many winters old are you?  
 Aaniin endaso-biboonigizid? How many winter's old is She/He?  
 Aaniin endaso-biboonigiziwaad? How many winters old are they?

## Niizh—2

Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

A. Daga agindan! Bezbig, Niizh, Niswi, Niiwin, Naanan.

B. Ningodwaaswi, Niizhwaaswi, Nishwaaswi, Zhaangaswi.

C. Midaaswi. Ashi bezbig, Ashi-niizh, Ashi-niswi, Ashi-niiwin...

D. Niizhtana, Niizhtana ashi bezbig....

E. Nisimidana, Nisimidana ashi bezbig.. Niimidana, Niimidana ashi bezbig... Naanimidana, Naanimidana ashi....

F. Noogishkaan! Giigooyikedaa! Naadoobiidaa! Maajigaa.

G. Zaagibigaa dash aabawaa. Bimosedaa! Eya'.

N N A C  
 A I T A W O  
 A S C Z B L T  
 N H N Z S A H B  
 I W A K Z Z W O S  
 M A A J I G A A D S  
 I A G I N D A N A O I  
 D S N E M I D A A S W I  
 A W O K A O O G T H H T  
 N I I Z H T A N A S A A  
 A J A K I D D O A I I S

## Niswi—3

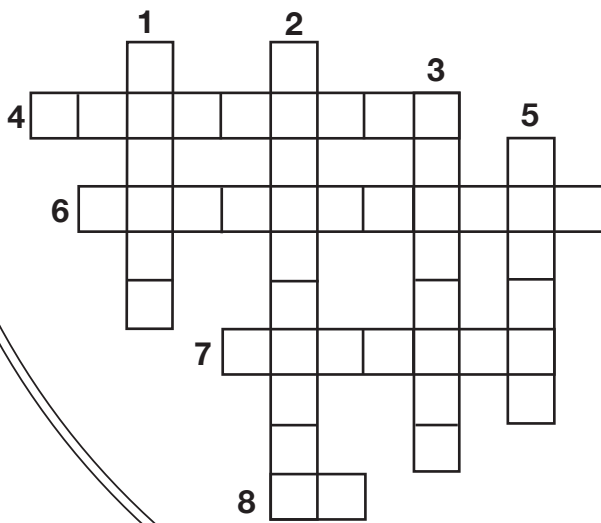
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

#### Down:

1. It is winter.
2. gardens
3. hawks
5. five (5)

#### Across:

4. robins
6. Stop!
7. It is warm weather.
8. question marker



## Niiwin—4

### So Many years Old

Traditionally age can be counted by how many winters one survives. Voice number then root word conjugate Daso-biboonigizi—S/he is so many winters old. Niimidana ashi niiwin nindaso-biboonigiz. —40 and 4 I am so many winters old; Ningodwaasimidana gidaso-biboonigiz. —You are 60 winters old; Niizhtana ashi niizh daso-biboonigizi. —S/he is 20 and 2 winters old; Bezbig dasobiboonigizi.—S/he is is one year old.

#### Goojitoon! Try it!

Translation below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (50) nindaso-biboonigiz. Mindimoye na indaaw?
2. Makoons izhinikaazo Hope. (1) \_\_\_\_\_ daso-biboonigizi.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (30) daso-bibooniziwag ingiw ininiwag iwidi.
4. Garrett gii-ikido, "Eya' \_\_\_\_\_ (12) nimbiboonigiz."
5. "Miizhishin \_\_\_\_\_ (5)!" Ginitaa-ojibwem noongom. Zhoomingwenig! Ani-ziigwan

Naanan

Nisimidana

Ashi niizh

Naanimidana

Bezbig

### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. Please count! One, Two, Three, Four, Five. B. Six, Seven, Eight, Nine. C. Ten, and One (11), and Niizh (12), and Three (13), and Four (14). D. Twenty, Twenty and One (21)...(Twenty and two and so on). E. Thirty, Thirty and One, Forty, Forty and One, Fifty and... F. Stop! Let's all go fishing! Let's all go gather sap. The sap is starting to run. G. The trees are budding and it is warm weather. Let's all go for a walk. Yes!

**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Biboon 2. Gitigaanan 3. Gekekweg 5. Naanan Across: 5. Opichiwag 6. Noogishkaan! 7. Aabawaa 8. Na  
**Niiwin—4** 1. I am Naanimidana (50) winters old. Elder woman? I am? 2. Bear cub she is called Hope. She is Bezbig (1) winters old. 3. They are Nisimidana (30) winters old those men there. 4. Garrett said, "Yes Ashi niizh (12) I am so many winters old." 5. Give it to me Naanan (5)!" You are skillful at speaking Ojibwe today. You all smile! Approaching is spring.

There are various Ojibwe dialects; check for correct usage in your area. Note that the English translation will lose its natural flow as in any world language translation. This may be reproduced for classroom use only. All other uses by author's written permission. Some spellings and translations from *The Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe* by John D. Nichols and Earl Nyholm. All inquiries can be made to MAZINA'IGAN, P.O. Box 9, Odanah, WI 54861 [pio@glifwc.org](mailto:pio@glifwc.org).