

# Niibing—When it is Summer

Niibing, gigizheb nimbizindawaa a'aw aandeg. Aabawaa agwajjiing. Nindaazhidemaa. Nimiigwechiwenimaanaanig ingiw mitigoog. Bijiinaago, ningii-mikawaa a'aw giizhik megwaayaak. Gigii-mikawaa na zaaga'iganing? Ninzaagi'aag ingiw maangwag. Endaaso-onaagoshing agamiing ninamadab. Gaawiin niwaabamaasiig zhiishiibag. Nindizhaa ziibing idash niwaabamaag zhiishiibag. Ninganwaabamaag ingiw miskwaadesiwag. Ginandawaabamaanaanig ingiw awesiiyag. Babaamaajimog!

(When it is summer, in the morning I listen to that crow. It is warm weather outside. I talk back to him/her. We give thanks to them those trees. Yesterday, I found that cedar in the woods. You did find her by the lake? I love those loons. Every evening on the shore I sit. I do not see any ducks. I go to the river and I see ducks. I look at those painted turtles. We all should look for them those wild animals. All of you spread the news!)

## 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  
 Ikidog—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.

**Past Tense; Gii-**  
 Speaking in the past. Tense marker Gii- is spoken just before the verb, personal inflection prefix (S/he, I, You, We, They) spoken first. Universal to all verbs!  
 Gii-gimiwan. It did rain. (VII)  
 Gii-anokii. She worked. (3rd VAI)  
 Ningii-anokii. I worked. (1st VAI)  
 Gigii-anokiimin. We all did work.  
 Ogii-mikaan adoopowin. She found the chair.  
 Bijiinaago ningii-mikaanan. Yesterday I found them. (VTI 3rd, 1st)  
 Ningii-mikawaa waabooz. I found the rabbit. (VTA 1st person) Gii - Did...

## Niizh—2 Circle the 10 underlined Ojibwe words in the letter maze. (Translations below)

- A. Bijiinaago gii-pimosewag miikanaang ingiw ojiigag.
- B. Awasonaago gii-pabaamibide niibinishiiwigamigong ginew.
- C. Gichi-awasonaago gii-giiyose gii-wewiibizi a'aw oshki-ginew.
- D. Gii-diidaabang, nigii-waabamaag ziibing zhashagi.
- E. Gii-aabitoseg, nindede ogii-waabamaan gidagaakoon.
- F. Gidagaakoons gii-gotaaji?
- G. Gii-bimibatoo megwaayaak. Weniban!

V Z O T  
 G I A M B R  
 N I N D E D E  
 W B I N G I W I  
 E I T Y O Q G C O  
 N N G E O A L T J L  
 I G N A H S M F I D E  
 G W O S X P E G I N E W  
 A W A S O N A A G O Y K  
 C H O B I M I B A T O O  
 Z G O T A A J I G J I H

## Niswi—3

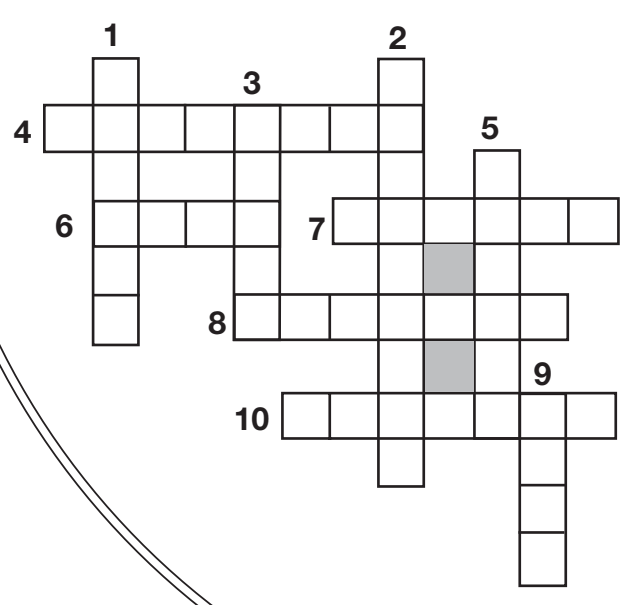
### IKIDOWIN ODAMINOWIN (word play)

#### Down:

- 1. blueberries
- 2. outside
- 3. golden eagle
- 5. s/he buys
- 9. and

#### Across:

- 4. trees
- 6. I, me
- 7. crow
- 8. Disappeared
- 10. my dad



## Niiwin—4

### Personal inflections in past

Ningii-odamin megwaayaak. I played in the woods.  
 Gigii-odamin gichioodenaang. You played in a city. (VAI)  
 Gii-miizhakwad. It was a clear day. (VII)  
 Ningii-miijin wiyaas. I did eat it meat.  
 Gigii-miijimin miinan. We all did eat them blueberries. (VTI)  
 Ningii-amwaa bakwezhigan. I ate bread.  
 Gigii-amwaawaag ode'iminag. You all did eat strawberries. (VTA)

### Goojitoon! Try it! Translation below.

- 1. \_\_\_ wiikonge gii-miwechiwendaman.
- 2. Gii-niizho-giizhigak \_\_\_ mino-anokii adaawewigamigong.
- 3. Gabe-dibik \_\_\_ jiibaakwe \_\_\_, nimaamaa dash niin.
- 4. \_\_\_ nitaa-ganawenim \_\_\_ abinoojiyens.
- 5. Dibikong \_\_\_ waawaate ishpeming. Howah!

Ningii-  
 Gigii-  
 Gii-  
 Gigii-...min  
 Gigii-...aawaa

### Translations:

**Niizh—2** A. Yesterday they walked by the river those fishers. B. The day before yesterday s/he flew along by the resort the golden eagle. C. Two days ago, he hunted in a hurry that young golden eagle. D. When it was daybreak, I saw by the river a heron. E. When it was Wednesday my dad saw a fawn. F. The fawn was fearful. G. He ran in the woods. Disappeared!  
**Niswi—3** Down: 1. Miinan 2. Agwajjiing 3. Ginew 5. Adaawe 9. Dash Across: 4. Mitigoog 6. Niin 7. Aandeg 8. Weniban 10. Nindede  
**Niiwin—4** 1. You did (Gigii-) give a feast (VAI), when you were thankful for something. 2. When it was 2nd day (Tuesday) I did (Ningii-) good-work at the buying building (store). 3. All night we did (Gigii-...min) cook (VAI), my mom and I. 4. You all did (Gigii-...aawaa) skillfully take care of him/her (VTA) the baby. 5. Last night there were/it was (Gii-) northern lights (VII) in the heavens. Alright! Wow!  
 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).