

Storytelling & Comprehension

Checks Activity

OVERVIEW

This activity will inspire advanced learners to build their comprehension, speaking, and storytelling skills. Storytelling is an excellent way for learners to engage the brain as both a speaker as well as a listener. These advanced learners demonstrate how storytelling and follow up questions can be used to demonstrate skills in comprehension. This engaging activity gives learners an opportunity to use the words they know, and to master new words, all while staying in the Anishinaabemowin language.

LEARNING GOALS

- Learners will develop their ability to comprehend and retain stories told in Anishinaabemowin.
- Learners will gain experience answering questions about the story.
- Learners will learn from each other as they work together demonstrate their understanding.
- Learners will identify areas of the language they would like to study further.
- Learners will gain experience staying in the language as much as possible.

MATERIALS

- A group of learners who are able to make sentences and understand phrases in the language
- Advanced learners or first language speakers who are able to support and facilitate the activity

TIME REQUIRED

20 Minutes

STEPS TO FOLLOW

1. Prepare one or two short stories that are a few sentences each. Prepare questions about the story to ask learners. Consider the level of the learners and what they already know as you prepare the story.
2. Consider the comfort level and ability of the learners. Some people find it helpful to have learners close their eyes or face away from each other so they can focus on listening and speaking. Online, this can be done by turning the participants' video cameras off.
3. The facilitator explains the activity. The storyteller will read a short story and then repeat themselves, slowly and clearly.
4. The storyteller will then ask learners comprehension questions.
5. Learners will work together to answer the questions about the story.
6. If learners are not able to answer the questions, give them time to write down the questions, and read the story again as they listen for the answers.

ADAPTATIONS

1. Ask learners to each prepare one or two stories that are only a few sentences each. Ask them to prepare questions about the story to ask their fellow learners.
2. Build stories around three chosen keywords. Introduce these keywords to the students before the story.
3. Allow less proficient learners to take notes as they are listening.
4. Allow learners to work together to translate the stories. The least proficient learners would go first, identifying and translating words they know or repeating words they heard. Ask the next proficient learners what they were able to take from the story and continue to the most proficient learners, who may be able to translate or even retell the story in their own words.

See our Storytelling & Comprehension Checks Video at <https://youtu.be/g5JWqX-GKuA> for a demonstration!