

Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings: Lakota Vocabulary Connections

Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Essential Understandings Five: Oral Tradition & Story

Grades K–5		Grades 6–8		Grades 9–12	
gnugnúška	grasshopper	t̥hat̥háŋka	buffalo bull	azíŋ	To nurse
zuzéča	snake	hé	horn	gló	To snort
kimímela	butterfly	hohú	buffalo	híŋ páhpÁ	To shed
pispíza	prairie dog	pté	Buffalo cow	hothúŋ	To make a sound (animal)
mastíŋčala	rabbit	pteníŋčala	buffalo calf	Iglág ománi	Migrate/move camp
p̥háhiŋ	porcupine	t̥hačháġu	buffalo lungs	ikpáptan̄ptaŋ	To roll over
wablúška	bug	t̥hačháŋk̄hahu	buffalo spine	Ikpáwaza	To rub oneself against something
t̥háŋca	deer	t̥hačháŋta	heart	kablá	To cut thin for drying
waŋblí	eagle	t̥hačhéži	buffalo tongue	khuté	To shoot it
wamákháškaŋ	animal	t̥haléža	bladder	kpaŋyÁŋ	To tan it
maká	skunk	t̥haló	meat	optáye	herd
šungmánitu	coyote	t̥hanásula	brain	Oyé otháphÁ	To track it
ziŋtkála	bird	t̥haphí	buffalo liver	P̄heží olé	To look for grass
heháka	elk	t̥hašáke	buffalo hooves	Wa pablú	To push snow away
mat̥hó	bear	t̥hasíŋta	buffalo tail	wayášla	To graze
		t̥hašúpa	buffalo intestines	wayát̄ha	To chew its cud
		waléġa	bladder		
		wé	blood		

Sample Lak̄hóta sentence starter:

Lé táku hé?

_____ héča.

What is this?

This is a _____.

Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Essential Understandings Five Song (Oral Tradition & Story)

Oral history is told through this song as songs often do tell the story of what happened in conflicts with soldiers. The violation of treaties and the Oceti Sakowin perspective is often overlooked by most mainstream historians. Songs are a living testimony of how the Europeans came and what the impact was on Oceti Sakowin culture.

The resource for this song was a discarded tape that I found in a trash can. It was in 1993 while I was residing in McLaughlin, South Dakota that I found the tape, had it repaired and was able to listen to it. I noticed that it had Noah Has Horn's name on it, so I asked for it and was told that I could have it.

There needs to be some clarification of the translation of some English and Lakota terms. Mila Hanska means Long Knives, which means U.S. Soldiers. The term Pehin Hanska means Long Hair which is what the Lakota called George A. Custer. What was perceived as counting coup does not necessarily mean that the enemy was killed; rather to touch the enemy, which was considered the bravest deed of all. The Battle of the Greasy Grass a.k.a. Little Big Horn was desperately fought by both sides that participated in this historical event. This song has reference to many members that died in the battle field or have passed on. It is their wishes that this song be kept alive so that the truth will continue to be told, as this is the way of the People. It is a very beautiful and impressive song and it signifies the greatest battle of our Lakota/Dakota relatives. (E. Bullhead, 2012)

Watch Earl Bullhead perform the song at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HclTLFrSUI>

Pěhíŋ Háŋska

(Long Hair Custer)

Pěhíŋ Háŋska natáŋ ahípe ló

(Long hair, Custer) (Came to count coup)

Lakhóta khoháŋ natáŋ ahípe ló

(Allies, friends) (In the meantime) (Count coup)

Míla Háŋska k'unj chéya natáŋpe ló

(Long Knives) (Once was) (Crying counting coup)

Free Translation: Custer came to count coup, but the Lakota/Dakota were already counting coup. The Long Knives are crying counting coup. (E. Bullhead, 2012)

Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings: Dakota Vocabulary Connections

Oceti Šakowin Essential Understanding Five: Oral Tradition & Story

Grades K–5		Grades 6–8		Grades 9–12	
Psipsicidaŋ	grasshopper	Tabdoka	buffalo bull	Awaŋyaka	To nurse
Zuzuhecedaŋ	snake	Tahe	horn	Puġa	To snort
Kimamina	butterfly	Tataŋka	buffalo	He Kapsuŋ	To shed (horns)
Piŋspiŋza	prairie dog	Pte	Buffalo cow		To make a sound (animal)
Mastiŋcaŋna	rabbit	Ptejicena	buffalo calf	Ihdaka	Migrate/move camp
Pahiŋ	porcupine	Tacaġu	buffalo lungs	Kahmihma	To roll
Waŋbduškana	bug	Tacaŋkahu	buffalo spine	Iuŋ	To rub on
Taħca	deer	Tacaŋte	heart	Kašda	To trim
Waŋbdi	eagle	Taceji	buffalo tongue	Kute-Yeya	To shoot it
Wamakaškaŋ	animal	Taodeža	bladder	Kpaŋyaŋ	To tan it
Maka	skunk	Tado	meat	Witayaŋ unpi	herd
Micakšica	coyote	Tanasu	brain	Owe Ode	To track it
Zitkadaŋ	bird	Tapi	buffalo liver		To look for grass
Heħaka	elk	Tašake	buffalo hooves	Wa pakam iyeya	To push snow away
Mato	bear	Tasiŋte	buffalo tail	Wihaŋ	To graze
		Tašupa	buffalo intestines	Yatata	chewing
		We	blood		

Sample Dakotah sentence starter:

Taku wabdaka he?
_____ wabdaka.

What do you see?
I see _____.

Oce ti Šakowiŋ Essential Understanding Five Song (Oral Tradition & Story)

Song

Every individual tiospaye (band) had their own song. Songs were modified and reused for different occasions. This song was shared by Porcupine singers at Vermillion, S.D. in 1979 in honor of Joe Louis Bullhead. It was used as a memorial song. I was once told that this song came out of Bullhead South Dakota. It is said that Old Man Straw Shoot and Joe Brave Thunder used to sing this song (E. Bullhead, 2012).

Watch Earl Bullhead perform the song at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YDD-AUn3kc&list=PLs8d38Q6863u-rLGOSZbeXKZ2kXTrwM53>

Wókiksuye Odowaŋ waŋ

(A memorial song)

Koda weksuye ye koda weksuyedo heye yedo

(Friend) (I remember) (Friend) (I remember)

Koda weksuye ye koda iyapedo heyeye yedo

(Friend) (I remember) (Friend) (They have gone)

Makasitomniyaŋ akíchita ye na he owakiye

(All over the world) (Soldier) (Went) (That) (I'm helping)

Tuwe sece k'uŋ Koda weksuye koda iyápedo he ye yedo

(To whom it may concern) (Friend) (Remember) (Friend) (They have gone)

Makasitomniyaŋ akíchita ye na he owakiye heye yedo

(All over the world) (Soldiers went) (I'm helping)

(**Don't change too much in dialect, or it will change the song.)

Free Translation: We are honoring all those relatives who have gone to protect our freedom.

(*Individual's Lakota name*) I remember my friend. They have been all around the world (E. Bullhead, 2012).