OCETI SAKOWIN ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

Instructional Resources
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In 2008, the Oceti Sakowin core concepts were developed by a team of educators and experts in culture, history, oral traditions, and language that collaborated with the South Dakota Department of Education. The team had identified the core concepts that focused on the essential to understanding and teachings of the Oceti Sakowin history and culture. Upon completion of this phase of development in August 2010, another team began to develop the essential understandings. The work was designed to provide compatibility to the South Dakota social studies standards. The essential understandings captured the core concepts that were identified at the beginning of the project. Indicators, standards, and activities were written to provide a framework for additional work and various forms of implementation. Culturally appropriate work created by other sources was identified to support suggested activities. The Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings and Standards are used in schools across South Dakota. They provide a foundation for teaching about the history and culture of the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires).
Timeline

DEVELOPMENT OF OSEU

2007
Indian Education Act mandated the development of course content for curriculum and coursework in South Dakota American Indian history and culture.

2008
The Indian Land Tenure Foundation awarded a grant to the South Dakota Office of Indian Education to begin the Oceti Sakowin Project and the development of the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings.

2011
The Oceti Sakowin Project was complete and the essential understandings were approved by the South Dakota Board of Education.

2018
The Essential Understandings and Standards were included in the State's standards and revision cycle that are adopted by the State Board of Education Standards.
INTRODUCTION

Introduction Resources

CLICK ON THE NAME OF THE RESOURCE YOU WISH TO UTILIZE

Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings
South Dakota Department of Education (DOE)

WoLakota Project
Elder Interviews
South Dakota Technology & Innovation in Education (TIE)

Native American Studies
South Dakota Public Broadcasting (SDPB)

Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian
Seven Council Fires & Bands

SEVEN COUNCIL FIRES:
- Mdewakanton - Dwellers by the Sacred Lake
- Wahpekute - Shooters Among the Leaves
- Sisitonwan/Sisseton - People of the Marsh
- Wahpetonwan - Dwellers Among the Leaves
- Ihanktown/Lower Yanktonai - People of the End
- Ihanktowana/Upper Yanktoni - People of the Little End
- Tetonwan - People on the Plains

INTRODUCTION

THE SEVEN BANDS OF THE TETONWAN, OR TETON GROUP
- Hunkpapa - Camps at the Horn (Standing Rock & Wood Mountain, Canada)
- Sicangu/Brule’ - Burnt Thigh (Rosebud & Lower Brule)
- Itazipo/Sans Arc - Without Bows (Cheyenne River)
- Sihasapa - Blackfeet (Cheyenne River & Standing Rock)
- Oglala - Scatters His Own (Pine Ridge)
- Oohenumpa - Two Kettles (Cheyenne River)
- Mniconjou Planters by the River (Cheyenne River)
What is Your Chapter Going to Say?

ELDER DUANE HOLLOW HORN BEAR

- Do I have any “origin” stories that are important to me? Why are they important? How do they impact my life or identity?
- Do I tend to act and then think, or think and then act?
- Are there any important lessons I’ve learned from parents, grandparents or other mentors? What are some of those lessons?
- What sort of “chapter” am I writing in the story of my life?
- How am I doing in taking care of the important things...physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually? Are there important things I’m not tending to in one or more of these areas?
The original land base and natural resources of the Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we] were under communal stewardship prior to immigrant settlement. Oceti Sakowin have a distinct and unique interrelationship with the environment that is essential to South Dakota.
Week 1

RESOURCES

Land Stewardship Activity Starter
Grade K-5

“Otiwote” “Makoce” and “Wizipan” with Duane Hollow Horn Bear
Grade 9-12

Hand-Washing Instructions in the Lakhóta
Grade 6-9

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 1: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades
Week 2

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 1: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

SD Native American Reservations Activity Starter
Grade K-5

Emerging and Evolving as Relatives with Jace Decory
Grade 9-12

Scavenger Hunt Narrative Poem
Grade 9-12
Identity & Resiliency

There is variety and resiliency among individuals within the Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we] Oyate [oh-YAH-tay] (people) as identity is developed, defined and redefined by entities, by organization, and by people. A continuum of tribal identity, unique to each individual, ranges from assimilated to traditional lifestyle. There is no “generic American Indian.”
Week 3

RESOURCES

IDENTITY & RESILIENCY

Crayons & Shelter Belts with Kevin Locke
Grade 9-12

Legend of Star Boy
Grade 6-9

See It, Sort It with Dr. Delphine Red Shirt
Grade K-5

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 2: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades
Week 4

RESOURCES

A School’s Spirit: St. Mary’s Boarding School
Grade 9-12

Choosing to Walk the Red Road with April Falls
Grade 9-12

Reflection, Rotation, Translation, Dilation
Grade 6-9

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 2: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades
Week 5

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 2: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

Indian Pride Historical Overview
Grade 9-12

Traditional Values with Whitney Renountre
Grade 9-12

Tob Tob
Grade 6-9
OSEU 3
Culture & Language

The origin, thought and philosophy of the Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we] continues in the contemporary lifestyles of Tribal members. Tribal cultures, traditions and languages are incorporated and observed by many Tribal members both on and off the reservations.
Week 6

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 3: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

Men’s Traditional Dance
Grade 6-9

Our Four Values with Victor Douville
Grade 9-12

Lakota Constellations
Grade K-5
Week 7

RESOURCES

Oceti Sakowin: People of the Seven Council Fires
Grade 9-12

Learning Crafts from Grandmother with Pearl Kennedy-Colombe
Grade 9-12

Using Primary Sources
Grade 9-12

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 3: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades
Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we] kinship systems provide a framework for both individual and group behavior. Its unwritten rules promote harmony, compromise, a sense of order, and group cohesion.
Week 8

RESOURCES

KINSHIP & HARMONY

Statehouse Extra: Mitakuye Oyasin
Grade 9-12

Cousins & Relative with Donald Montileaux
Grade 9-12

Racoon and the Bee Tree with Dr. Charles Eastman
Grade K-5

OSEU Aligned South Dakota Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 4: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades
Week 9

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned South Dakota Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 4: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

Trickster Tales
Arts After School
Grade K-5

Oceti Sakowin
Kinship Systems
Grade 6-9

Kinship Systems with
Lydia Whirlwind Soldier
Grade 9-12
History told from the Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we] perspective, through oral tradition and written accounts, frequently conflicts with the stories told by mainstream historians. An analysis of multiple perspectives reveals history in a more inclusive and accurate way.
Week 10

RESOURCES

Winter Count Dyes
Grade 6-9

Who Gets to Tell the Story
with Joseph Marshall III
Grade 9-12

Rapid City Indian Boarding School
Grade K-5

OSEU Aligned
SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 5: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

ORAL TRADITION & STORY
Week 11

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned South Dakota Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 5: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

ORAL TRADITION & STORY

Waniyetu Wowapi (Winter Count)
Grade 9-12

The Story of the Child & The Hairy Man with Delores Taken Alive
Grade 9-12

Learning about Legends
Grade 9-12
Federal policies and treaties put into place throughout American history have affected Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-wei] people adversely. Tribes as sovereign nations have the authority to enter into government to government relationships. Currently, the relationship between each tribe, their state(s), and the federal government is not the same for each tribe.
Week 12

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned South Dakota Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 6: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

Native American Boarding Schools Activity Starter
Grade K-5

Boarding School “Rose Pumpkinseed” with Sidney Byrd
Grade 9-12

Winter Counts
Grade K-5

SOVEREIGNTY & TREATIES
Week 13

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned South Dakota Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 6: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

A Dark Day: The Wounded Knee Massacre
Grade K-5

Manifest Destiny
Grade 6-9

1851 Treaty & 1892 Agreement with Faith Spotted Eagle
Grade 9-12
History told from the Oceti Sakowin [oh-CHEH-tee shaw-KOH-we] perspective, through oral tradition and written accounts, frequently conflicts with the stories told by mainstream historians. An analysis of multiple perspectives reveals history in a more inclusive and accurate way.
Week 14

RESOURCES

- American Indian Movement: Native Americans Fight Back
  Grade 9-12

- Meeting the Needs of the “70%” with Jesse Taken Alive
  Grade 9-12

- Poetry with John Trudell
  Grade K-5

OSEU Aligned SD Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 7: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades
Week 15

RESOURCES

OSEU Aligned South Dakota Social Studies Lessons
All Grades

OSEU 7: Vocabulary Connections
All Grades

WAY OF LIFE & DEVELOPMENT

Addressing Misconceptions with Drs. Johnson & Eastman
Grade 9-12

Nellie Two Bulls
Grade 9-12

Technology
Grade 6-9
These resources have been curated by:

- **CCNETWORK**
  - Comprehensive Center Network
  - REGIONICC.ORG

- **DOE.SD.GOV**
  - Department of Education

- **BHSSC.ORG**
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs

- **RAPID CITY AREA SCHOOLS**
  - Title VI Indian Education Office’s Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings Team
  - RCAS.ORG

- **SDPB.ORG**
  - South Dakota Public Broadcasting

- **SWODLI.COM**
  - SWO Dakotah Language Institute

- **WOLAKOTA.ORG**
  - The WoLakota Project

- **Red Cloud Indian School**
  - REDCLOUDSCHOOL.ORG

- **SDTRIBALRELATIONS.SD.GOV**
  - Department of Tribal Relations

- **Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Education Department**
  - SWO-NSN.GOV