Let's make pinenut necklaces!

Nisenan language for TEK's pinenut necklace workshop

Siyeepé tooním əələwí!



SSBMI Language Department September 30, 2025

# Review key vocabulary

Match the Nisenan words to their English translations. Answers are inside the booklet

- tooním heen
- sumúum c'aa

O

regalia, valuables

sugar pine tree

gray pine tree

- sumúu
- tooním əəléw
- tooním c'aa
- lilím
- woowóo
- sumúum heen
- osek'áa
- iniimi

necklace

gray pine pinecone

ponderosa pine tree

sugar

pine pinenut

sugar pine pinecone

pineneedle(s)

gray pine pinenut

pinenut necklace

ponderosa pine pinecone

# Pine tree species & parts

In the Nisenan language, pine trees are usually known by the name of their nut. Iniimí (ponderosa pine) is an exception; Nisenan speaker William Joseph said that there is not a specific word for the nuts of **iniimí**, though there is a special word for their cones (**lilím**).

gray pine pinenut	toon
gray pine tree	tooním c'aa
gray pine pinecone	tooním heen
gray pine pinenuts (still green)	yopé
sugar pine pinenut	sumúu
sugar pine tree	sumúum c'aa
sugar pine pinecone	sumúum heen
sugar pine sugar / gum	kawaasú
ponderosa pine tree ponderosa pine pinecone	iniimí Iilím
tree (general term)	c'aa

woowóo

t'ilká

pineneedle(s) (general term)

resin, pitch (general term)

## Necklace & related words

The word for 'necklace' is a little challenging to read and pronounce; listening to the recordings on our website can help! You can also contact us for in-person help.

> necklace, abalone shell əələw

> > pinenut necklace tooním aaláw

regalia, valuables osek'áa

cordage (rope, string, thread)

k'uk'

small round bead

howwotú

cylindrical magnesite bead

laklákse

abalone shell pendant

p'ilp'íl

shell money

howók

### Listen & watch

Scan the QR code on the right or visit https://bit.ly/ssbmi-pinenuts to listen to the language in this booklet and to watch a historical documentary about traditional methods of gathering and processing pinenuts.



Answers to the review exercise on the back of this booklet: 1 - k, 2 - a, 3 - i, 4 - l, 5 - d, 6 - c, 7 - f, 8 - q, 9 - h, 10 - e, 11 - b, 12 - i