

# LANGUAGE DAY CAMP

Guidebook



NISENÁANWEYPÉ!  
**Let's Speak Nisenan!**

**SSBMI Language Department**  
July 26, 2024





# MY STAMPS

Complete activities to get stamps!

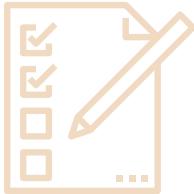
**1 STAMP = 1 RAFFLE TICKET**

GROUP UP

ENVIRONMENTAL

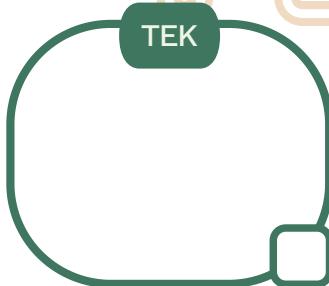
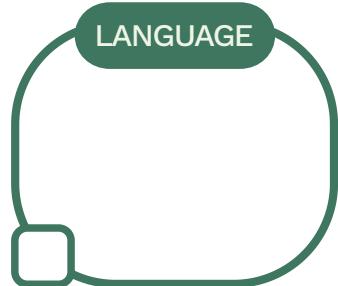


EXHIBITS & COLLECTIONS CENTER



LANGUAGE

TEK



MY NAME IS

\_\_\_\_\_



# LANGUAGE DAY CAMP

SSBMI Language Department

**This event is dedicated to the Ancestors,  
who shared with us the gifts of  
language, culture, and knowledge.**

This booklet provides Nisenan language for use at Language Day Camp 2024. The Tribe has ancestral ties to the Nisenan language through the Tribe's Matriarchs, Pamela Cleanso Adams and Annie Hill Murray Paris. Pamela, Annie, and many of their close relations spoke Nisenan and shared their language with documentarians in the early 1900s. The knowledge they shared provides us with a pathway to reconnect with the Nisenan language today.

The Tribe also has significant connections to ancestral Nisenan villages like Pusúune and Yáales, where the Nisenan language has been spoken since time immemorial.

**We also wish to thank the following  
for their contributions to this event:**

Chairwoman Regina Cuellar and Tribal Council  
Red Tail Photography

SSBMI Education Center Staff & Interns

SSBMI Environmental Department

SSBMI Exhibits & Collections Center

SSBMI Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Department

TO LISTEN & LEARN MORE

<https://bit.ly/ssbmilanguagedaycamp>



All graphics in this booklet were adapted from Creazilla.com,  
drawn by Skye Anderson, or sourced from Adobe Stock.



# GROUP UP!

There are 5 teams at LDC this year.  
**EACH TEAM IS NAMED AFTER AN ANIMAL.**

Haw

K'ut'

May

Emúl

Koowáwa

Fox

Deer

Salmon

Black Bear

Butterfly

MY TEAM IS...

HOMOYÉM INNÓ PESAKÁBE MI?

Which of them do you like?

After each activity, you will be asked...

**Hésmísébe mi? = What group are you in?**

WHICH ANSWER SHOULD YOU USE?

- Háwmisém ni. I am in Fox group.
- K'út'misém ni. I am in Deer group.
- Máymisém ni. I am in Salmon group.
- Emúlmisém ni. I am in Black Bear group.
- Koowawamisém ni. I am in Butterfly group.



HOW TO PLAY...

# Sipaayuwá!

In *Sipaayuwá!*, which means 'You all, point at it!', one person calls out words and two players compete to be the first to point at the picture that the word describes.

Emúl



Haw



K'ut'



May



Koowáwa



The winner gets to  
pick their group first!  
Be sure to play early  
and point quick!

Esak'ábe mi? Do you know?

You can play this game at  
home to practice new words!



# ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

K'AAATOPÉ! = LET'S PLAY A GAME!

In this game, you have two sets of cards:

- 1 One set has pictures of different habitats.
- 2 The other set has pictures of animals.

**MATCH EACH ANIMAL TO THEIR ENVIRONMENT!**

WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT IN NISENAN?

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Esak'ábe mi hedée? | Do you recognize this one? |
| Homodí isíbe?      | Where does it live?        |
| Kiyisí payelíbe?   | Does it eat meat?          |
| K'omí payelíbe?    | Does it eat seeds?         |
| Hiní payelíbe?     | Does it eat berries?       |
| Muk'úbe?           | Is it big?                 |
| Laayíbe?           | Is it small?               |
| Huunóbe?           | Does it fly?               |



**Esak'ábe mi? Do you know?**  
You can listen to these sentences at  
<https://bit.ly/ssbmilanguagedaycamp>



# LEARN THEIR NISENAN NAMES



Emúl



Koymóo



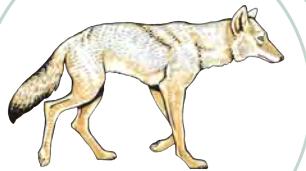
Kiihí



Woololók



Húkpas



Olé



K'ut'



Kakí





# OLÉM HAM!

Play a game with the Language Department!

**Olém Ham** (Coyote Says) is a Nisenan version of the game Simon Says. One person acts as Olé (Coyote). When Olé gives a command in the frame sentence

**Olém \_\_\_\_\_ ham! = Coyote says \_\_\_\_\_!**

players try to obey the command as quickly as possible.

## THE RULES



Anyone who doesn't perform the correct action is out.



Anyone who obeys a command given without the frame sentence **Olém \_\_\_\_\_ ham!** is out.

**THE LAST PLAYER STANDING WINS!**

## COMMANDS

Pettuywá!

You all, turn around!

Iskitwá!

You all, sit down!

Dəkəwá!

You all, stand up!

Dəəwá!

You all, laugh!

Yatapwá!

You all, clap!

Hatiwá!

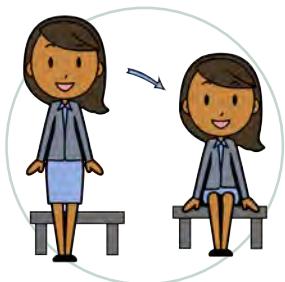
You all, stop!



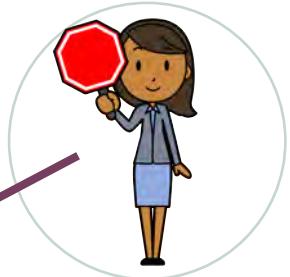
What part of these Nisenan words do you think means that these are commands to a group of people?

# PRACTICE

MATCH THE NISENAN COMMANDS TO THEIR MEANINGS  
(Tip: Check your answers against the list on the opposite page)



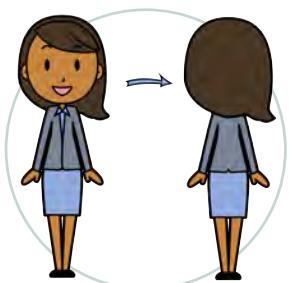
Dæewá!



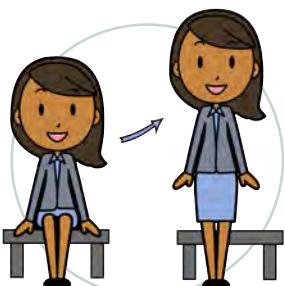
Hatiwá!



Iskitwá!



Yatapwá!



Dækewá!



Pettuywá!

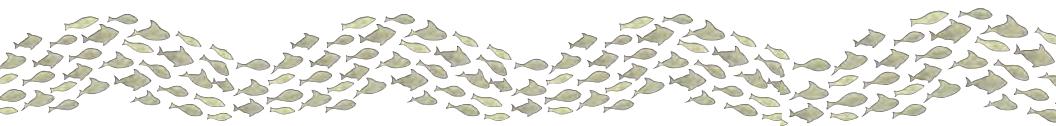


Heads-up: These are all instructions to a group of people.



# TEK

## Do an activity with the Traditional Ecological Knowledge Department!



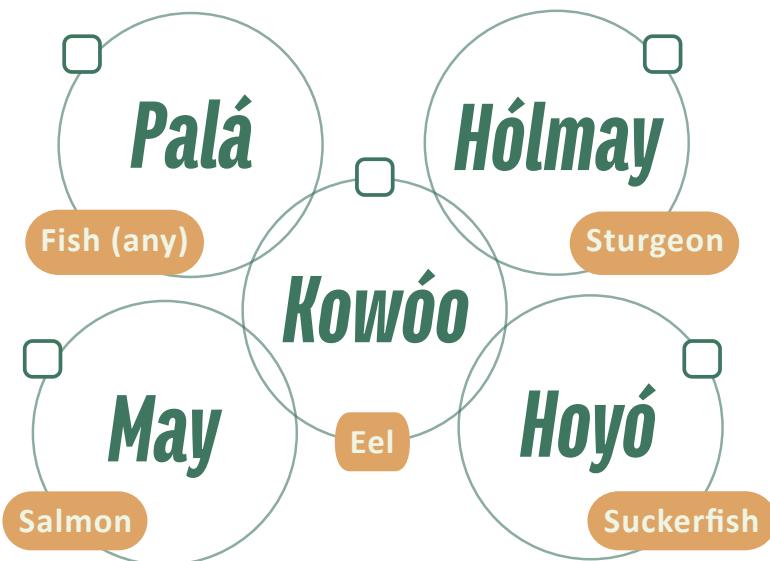
**Let's do this one differently!** Use the space below to write down what you did with the TEK department!

**Challenge:** Can you use any of the Nisenan phrases on the next page to talk about your experience?

Hesí k'áa'askani? What did you just do?



## DID YOU LEARN ABOUT ANY OF THESE ANIMALS?



# NISENÁANWEYPÉ!

Let's speak Nisenan!

P'ílíf'as ni.

I fished.

K'aató'as ni.

I played a game.

Haató'as ni.

I played dice game.

Waatahá k'aató'as ni.

I played a card game.

Siyée'as ni hesí.

I made something.

Halé'as ni hesí.

I won something.

Pesák'as ni.

I enjoyed it.

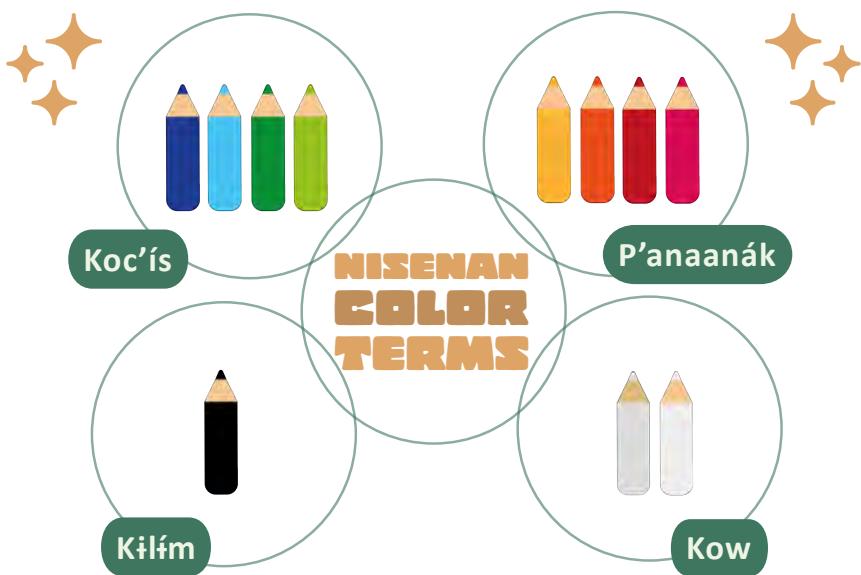
Can you use  
any of these to  
describe other  
things you did  
today?





# EXHIBITS & COLLECTIONS CENTER

PAINT WITH ECC USING NATURAL PIGMENTS!



HOMOYÉM INNÓ PESAK'ÁBE MI?

Which of them do you like?

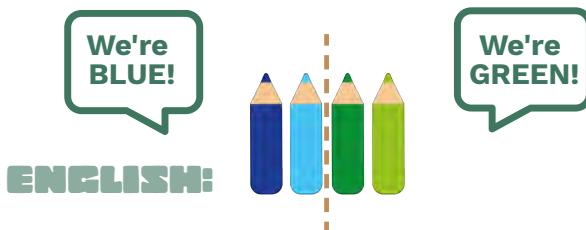
## SPOTLIGHT

**Yii** is called **ochre** in English, and it is a natural clay earth pigment. It can range from yellow to deep reddish orange-brown.

**Áantay** are called **Elderberry berries** in English. They can produce a range of pinks and purples.

ESAK'ÁBE MI? Do you know?

Color names (like 'green' and 'blue' in English) are just like peoples' last names – whole families answer to the same name.



In different languages, colors may group into families a little differently...



Look at the Nisenan color names on the previous page. Can you spot some differences in how colors are grouped into families in Nisenan and English?

## NISENÁANWEYPÉ!

Let's speak Nisenan!

Wokopé!

Meep hedée.

Meep boonóyu.

Hesí wokóbe mi?

Etatíbe nik.

Wosak'atím!

Let's all paint!

Take this.

Take a brush.

What are you painting?

Please show me.

It's beautiful!



If you want to talk about something like a "blue fox" or an "orange deer" in Nisenan, you add a special ending to the first word in the pair.

Check out the examples on the next page!

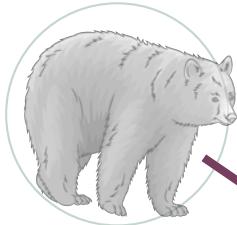


# PRACTICE



CAN YOU MATCH THE NISENAN PHRASES TO THEIR MEANINGS?

We got things started for you!



koc'isím may



kowím emúl



p'anaanakám k'ut'



koc'isím haw



kowím kíihí



p'anaanakám húkpas



**C'aa** means 'tree'.

Can you describe  
each of these trees  
in Nisenan?



# Neetíp Min Hen̄mihí

GROW YOUR LANGUAGE

Remember this question?  
Hésmisébe mi?



We have used this to ask "What group are you in?"  
but it also means "Of what people are you?"

Hésmisébe mi? = "Of what people are you?"

At LDC, we practiced identifying ourselves as members of teams named after animals using this frame sentence:



\_\_\_\_\_ misém ni.

This also means "I am of \_\_\_\_\_ people". This question and answer pair can be used to ask about someone's Tribe and Ancestry and to respond with your own.

\_\_\_\_\_ misém ni. = "I am of \_\_\_\_\_ people."

In the blank space, you can use the names of places, like the Tribe's ancestral Nisenan villages, to express who you are and where your Ancestors came from.

Check out the examples on the next page.

## SPOTLIGHT

Hésmísébe mi? = "Of what people are you?"

### EXAMPLE RESPONSES

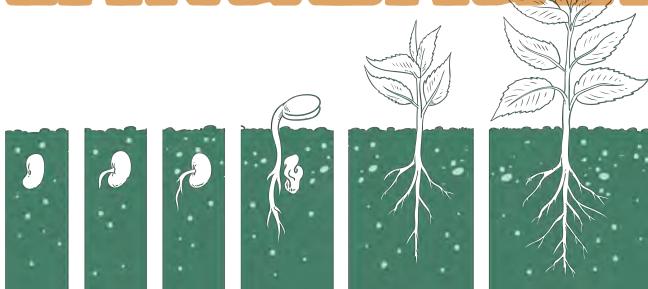
|          |           |                                 |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Pusúune  | mísém ni. | I am of the people of Pusúune.  |
| K'ademmá | mísém ni. | I am of the people of K'ademmá. |
| Wóllok   | mísém ni. | I am of the people of Wóllok.   |
| Yáales   | mísém ni. | I am of the people of Yáales.   |



These are just a few of the Tribe's ancestral villages.

These examples show how you can use what you learned at Language Day Camp 2024 to

# GROW YOUR LANGUAGE!



Visit the Language Department's website for more resources:  
[h~ps://bit.ly/ssbmlanguage](https://bit.ly/ssbmlanguage)







# WANT TO LISTEN AND LEARN MORE NISENAN?

<https://bit.ly/ssbmilanguagedaycamp>



**Siyeepé: SSBMI Language Department 2024**  
**Contact: Language@ssband.org**

