

“We Are All Relatives-Lesson 1 of 2 -Family” | OSEU 4: Kinship & Harmony

Compelling Question	Who are your relatives in the full sense of Mitakuye Oyasin? (me-TOCK-oo-yay oh-yaw-sin)	
Standards and Practices	OSEU 4.1 – Compare and contrast the traditional Oceti Sakowin family structure to contemporary family structures. 4.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions	
Staging the Question	Can friends, neighbors, and pets be “relatives” in the sense of Mitakuye Oyasin?	
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
What is Mitakuye Oyasin?	What are family members called in the Lakota language?	What makes someone or something my “relative,” and can neighbors, friends, and pets be my “relatives” by this definition?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Watch the Joseph Marshall elder interview (link below) and discuss “Learn ABOUT” questions 5, 6, and 7 (provided below).	Listen to the song (link below) and then use the chart (provided below) to help students become familiar with Lakota terms for relatives.	
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
http://www.wolakotaproject.org/oseu-four-interview-with-joseph-marshall-iii/	https://youtu.be/-YQt5Sv_NqI	Questions provided below
Summative Performance Task	Argument	Discuss a broader definition of “relative.” What makes someone or something my “relative,” and can neighbors, friends, and pets be my “relatives” by this definition? Introduce for thought the “Learn FROM” questions 5, 6, 7, and 8 (provided below). To prepare students to personally answer each of these four questions, give each student a piece of paper with instructions to place his or her name in the middle with radiating lines leading to “relatives” in the four categories addressed by the questions. Students may be invited to share their work with the group.
	Extension	
Taking Informed Action	Students may be encouraged to share their chart of “relatives” with family and extended family.	

Learn ABOUT
(deep listening, *information*)

1. What is “Materialism”?
2. What things were traditionally owned by the women? What things were traditionally owned by the men?
3. What’s a “Trading” economy? How does it differ from a “Capitalistic” economy?
4. What are the various words and their meanings as connected with kinship?
5. What is Mitakuye Oyasin?
6. How does it change a community when the family connections are much more widely spread than just the biological, nuclear family?
7. How does the idea of “a village raising a child” play out today in Native communities? How does that impact families? How does it impact schools?



OSEU 4: INTERVIEW WITH JOSEPH MARSHALL III
WoLakota Project

Learn FROM
(deep sharing, *transformation*)

1. Would you consider yourself “Materialistic”? What role does “acquiring things” play in your life?
2. Have you ever “traded” with friends or others in your community to get the things or services you need? If so, what was that like? What are the benefits of trading?
3. How do you feel about “capitalism”? What are its strengths? What are its weaknesses?
4. What’s the difference, as you see it, between “circle” relationships and “hierarchical” relationships? What are the positives or negatives of each?
5. Are there any animals in your life that you feel are a true part of your family?
6. Are there people you see as a parent or grandparent who aren’t your biological parent or grandparent? How did that relationship develop?
7. Do you have any friends who feel like brothers or sisters to you?
8. Are there any children that you know (who are not your own) that you feel some responsibility for “raising” along with others?

Lakota Female	English Kinship Relations	Lakota Male
Unci	Grandmother	Unci
Tunkasila	Grandfather	Tunkasila
Ina	Mother [and her sisters]	Ina
Ate	Father [and his brothers]	Ate
Tunwin	Aunt [father's sisters, father's brother's wife, and mother's brother's wife]	Tunwin
Leksi	Uncle [mother's brother, mother's sister's husband, and father's sister's husband]	Leksi
Cepansi	Female cousin [daughters of mother's brothers and father's sisters]	Hankasi
Sicesi	Male cousin [sons of mother's brothers and father's sisters]	Tahansi
Cuwe	Older sister [and older daughters of mother's sisters and father's brothers]	Tanke
Tiblo	Older brother [and older sons of mother's sisters and father's brothers]	Ciye
Tanka	Younger sister [and younger daughters of mother's sisters and father's brothers]	Tanksi
Misun	Younger brother [and younger sons of mother's sisters and father's brothers]	Misun
Sicepan	Sister-in-law [a woman's husband's sister or her sister's husband; a man's wife's sister or his brother's wife]	Hanka
Sice	Brother-in-law [a woman's husband's brother or her sister's husband; a man's wife's brother or his sister's husband]	Tanhan
Cunksi	Daughter [and daughters of a woman's sisters or a man's brothers]	Cunksi
Cinksi	Son [and sons of a woman's sisters or a man's brothers]	Cinksi
Tojan	Niece	Tonjan
Toska	Nephew	Tonska
Uncisi	Mother-in-law	Uncisi
Tunkan	Father-in-law	Tunkan
Wakanyeya	Child	Wakanyeya
Takoja	Grandchild	Takoja