

“Kinship Terms” | OSEU 4: Kinship & Harmony

Compelling Question	How would I describe my family using Lakota terms?	
Standards and Practices	OSEU 4.1: Compare and contrast the traditional Oceti Sakowin family structure to contemporary family structures. 1.H.1.2 Describe ways people learn about the past including but not limited to photos, artifacts, stories, and videos.	
Staging the Question	Who are you related to and what do you call them?	
Supporting Question 1		Supporting Question 2
What does kinship mean?		If you were speaking Lakota, what would you call your family members?
Formative Performance Task		Formative Performance Task
Discuss the meaning of the word kinship from the Lakota perspective (a Lakota person is defined not by individual identity and personal goals, but by kinship relationships.) Listen to interview of Vernon Ashley on Kinship Terms Have all students create their own kinship list Create a language book with the English and Lakota terms for each member they listed Listen to interview of Stephanie Charging Eagle on Hunka Relatives		
Featured Sources		Featured Sources
Kinship Terms Vernon Ashley interview on Kinship Terms Stephanie Charging Eagle interview on Hunka Relatives		
Summative Performance Task	Argument	Do you think the Lakota kinship is a good way to talk about family as opposed to the English way that we are familiar with? And why do you think that?
	Extension	Make a family tree with the Lakota kinship terms of their family
Taking Informed Action	Have students take home their language dictionary and their family tree to discuss with their parents how the Lakota kinship system works.	

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
Wakanyeja	Child	Wakanyeja
Takoja	Grandchild	Takoja