

Traditional Introductions

Overview:

Students learn to introduce themselves in the traditional manner.

Objective:

The student will introduce himself or herself in the traditional manner.

Materials:

- STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Traditional Introductions”

Teacher Information:

Introducing oneself is a valuable skill for students. When inviting elders and other community members into the classroom encourage students to introduce themselves in the traditional manner. Introductions can vary from culture to culture. Many traditional Alaska Native cultures have introductions that involve stating the individual’s name, the home village, and family connections.

Activity Preparation:

Research and record the proper etiquette for local traditional introductions if the local language is not Gwich’in. Write this information on the board.

Activity Procedure:

1. Distribute the STUDENT WORKSHEET: “Traditional Introductions.” Explain that introductions can vary from culture to culture. In Gwich’in, a person must say his or her name, the home village, and the name of his or her parents and grandparents. Explain the local traditional information and process of making an introduction. Instruct students to copy notes from the board if the local language is not Gwich’in. This is a useful skill students may use when elders or other guests come to the classroom.
2. Model the complete introduction first. Then say each part and allow students time to repeat. Encourage students to use traditional names. If necessary, adapt this lesson to the local Native language and traditional custom. Seek out Native language speakers to aid in pronunciation.
3. Split students into two groups to form concentric circles. Students should practice introductions facing one another.
4. Ask students to face new partners and practice the introduction again. Students should repeat this process three to six times.

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Instructions:

Listed below is an example of a Gwich'in introduction with its English translation. If the language of your area is not Gwich'in, record the notes for this procedure in the empty box below. Listen carefully to the pronunciation then practice saying the introduction with the correct information. Use traditional names if possible.

| Gwich'in | English Translation |
|--|--|
| <p>Shoozhrii <i>your name</i> oozhii.</p> <p><i>Your home</i> gwats'an ihlee.</p> <p>Shahan <i>mother's name</i> oozhii.</p> <p>Shiti' <i>father's name</i> oozhii.</p> <p>Shitsuu <i>grandmother's name</i> oozhii.</p> <p>Shitsii <i>grandfather's name</i> oozhii.</p> | <p>My name is _____.</p> <p>I am from _____.</p> <p>My Mother's name is _____.</p> <p>My Father's name is _____.</p> <p>My Grandfather's name is _____.</p> <p>My Grandmother's name is _____.</p> |
| My Language | English Translation |
| | |