

NATIVE WISDOM

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To understand the importance of respect for every individual, irrespective of their lifestyle or where they are from
- To relate to the emotions of the characters and apply the theme in daily life
- To develop respect and admiration for forest dwellers (indigenous people), their unique culture, way of life and practices
- To introduce students to the Amazon rainforest
- To appreciate the wonders of nature
- To estimate the richness of the Amazon rainforest and analyse how rainforests protect animals



Pre-reading

This section focuses on *assessment for learning*. It informs the reader that the text is about an incident in the Rainforests and prepares the reader as to what is to follow. The reader tries to evoke their senses which will help build imagery specific to the rainforests.

A. Allot some time for students to do the pre-reading given in the Reader.

B. *Whole class Activity*

Have students brainstorm words they think relate to the topic "Forests".

Write the words on the board. Introduce them to the words in the box and elicit from students the meaning of each word. Pictures can be shown to help explain words like *tapir*, *Peccaries*, *humming bird*, *liana*, and *boa constrictor*. Ask students to enact the action words like *wade*, *spin*, *hauled* and so on. Give sample sentences if needed.

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| rivulets | tapir | peccaries | streams | trails |
| eventually | seep | trek | forest-dwellers | ignorant |
| buck man | devoid | glade | liana | boa constrictor |
| prey | nettle | spin | wade | hauled |
| sting ray | paralyses | salve | soothe | tip |

READING

Students predict, anticipate, comprehend, answer questions

Setting the Scene: Create the setting using sensory perception and imagery.

Note: Use appropriate voice modulation and read the following excerpt slowly to create the desired natural setting in the classroom. Pause occasionally to share what the student sees in her/his mind and the emotions she/he is feeling.

- A. Students are now familiar with the new words. Ask them to visualise the setting as you read a descriptive passage aloud to help them create images and emotions.
- B. Ask students to close their eyes and breathe deeply and relax as you read the passage.
- C. Throughout the passage, pause to ask the students what they see, hear, taste, smell and feel. Ask what words helped them create the mental image and emotions.

"Imagine a rainforest in the Amazon; you can hear birds chirping, animals rumbling in the bushes and streams flowing at a distance.

Elicit emotions and sensory perceptions from the students. Encourage descriptive images of the animals and the forest. Lead students to draw on the board, if needed. Tell students that they just had a glimpse of the setting of our story.

Anticipation and Prediction:

What do you think the story 'Native wisdom' is about? Who are natives?

Have you teased someone in the past? How do you feel when someone looks down on you, teases you or calls you names like "stupid" and so on? How would you react?

Group Work

(Students read the text and work out questions in groups to reiterate facts and morals)

Silent reading

- *Leon Moulineux was a poor South ... Leon, would give him a generous tip.*

Introduce the students to the main character in the story – Leon, a poor South American hunter, who did not know how to read and write.

Ask questions to the groups and allow them to discuss their thoughts and write them down.

Why did Leon enjoy his work?

- *If you want to see the wildlife ... "Not by our friends," said Leon.*

Ask students:

Do you agree that the heavy rains in the rainforests are responsible for the network of streams and rivulets. (Yes, the forest absorbs the heavy rains like a sponge and then slowly releases the water in the form of streams and rivulets which eventually join the Amazon.) Do you think that with so much of water, there will be an abundance of plants and trees in these rain forests? What kind of animals and birds live in these forests?

Are the waters muddy and not good to drink. (No. Actually dyes from the trees seep into the water and turn it into a coffee colour. Though the water is not clear, it is absolutely clean and good to drink.)

Do these lines give you a vivid idea of a rainforest? Does it match with the notes you made in the Pre-reading section?

(Ans: Free response)

Did the tourist who Leon accompanied know all about the rainforest? (No, he knew the forest only in terms of the wood that could be extracted. However, he felt that the natives were ignorant.)

The speaker says 'unfortunately' because...

(Ans: such a tourist would not be able to appreciate the richness of nature in a rainforest.)

Why did the tourist think that Leon was stupid? Is Buckman a friendly/polite way to call someone? Was it an insult to be called a buck man? (Yes) Did Leon like being called buck man? How do we know? (No, he does not. He does not openly say so, but simply asserts, with dignity, "My name is Leon.") What does Leon mean by "Not by our friends,"?

Do the words of the tourist hurt and offend Leon? How do you know?

(Ans: Yes. We know this because he says that their friends or loved ones did not call them 'buckmen'.)

Quote a line to show that the rich tourist felt that he was superior to Leon. (Yes, he asks, "... but all you South American tribesmen are called buckmen, aren't you?")

- *Just then Leon saw a trail off ... dangerous nettle.*

Ask students:

Why do you think Leon took off his shoes when they reached the trail? (Leon was perhaps trying not to stamp any insects or living beings on the trail.) How did Leon react when the tourist looked down on him? (He did not respond, stayed silent and maintained his dignity.)

"Shoes are for the feet, not for carrying over your shoulder. If I were you, I'd wear them." Describe which of these views you agree with, and give your reasons.

- The writer is trying to make you dislike the tourist.*
- The writer is trying to show you that Leon is foolish.*

Ask students:

What creatures in the rainforest did Leon point out to the tourist? (The humming bird, the liana, boa constrictor) When Leon saved the

tourist from getting bitten by a dangerous nettle, who was the cleverer person, the tourist or Leon?

- *Soon, they came to a point ... I am worried about! It's my feet."*

Ask students:

Why did Leon put on his shoes before they could wade across the stream? (To protect his feet from being bitten by dangerous under-water creatures) What is the meaning of "Man, this takes the cake..." (In this context it means to be the most foolish of its kind) Who is wiser, Leon or the tourist?

Guess the meaning of the phrase 'takes the cake' and then find a similar phrase in your home language.

(Ans: Be the most remarkable or foolish of its kind)

Free response)

Post-reading

Group Discussion

How do you think Leon felt when the tourist was rude and disrespectful to him? What might have happened if the tourist was not so rude to Leon? (They might have become friends; Leon might have enjoyed the tour and given him more information about the forest)

What do these phrases mean?

- *drew his attention to, takes the cake*

GRAMMAR

Conjunctions

Write this sentence on the board:

Mina went to the mall. Mina bought a phone.

Ask students to find different ways to connect these sentences with conjunctions. Brainstorm a list of conjunctions with the class and write them on the board.

Now discuss the examples in the Reader.

Activity

Ask students if they know to play Noughts and Crosses.

- The first group chooses its square and decides its symbol. Either a nought – O or a Cross – X

- Group A then places the other symbol anywhere else in the grid.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | O | |
| X | | |
| | | O |

Groups take turns until one group places their symbol in a row. It can be placed vertically, horizontally or diagonally as shown below.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | X | X |
| | O | |
| | O | O |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | X | O |
| | O | |
| O | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| X | | X |
| O | O | O |
| O | | X |

- Divide the class into groups; two groups play at a time and the winning group proceeds to the next round and plays against the other group which won. Demonstrate with two groups.
- Now that they are familiar with the game, tell students that they are going to play these using conjunctions. Ask the class to choose 9 conjunctions and enter it in each square

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----|------|-----|-----|-------|------------|---------|
| or | but | so | when | and | yet | after | as long as | because |
|----|-----|----|------|-----|-----|-------|------------|---------|

- Tell students to choose any conjunction that goes with any square.
- They now make a sentence with the given conjunction. If the sentence is correct they get to put their symbol in the square, if not the question passes to the next group.
- The game continues till there is a winning group.
- Change the conjunctions every time a new group comes forward.
- Alternatively, the entire class can be divided into two groups and students can be called to frame each sentence.

List of some conjunctions: *and, or, but, nor, so, for, yet, after, although, as, as if, as long as, because, before, even if, even though, once, since, so that, though, till, unless, until, what, when, whenever, wherever, whether, while*

VOCABULARY







Words related to nature

Preparation: One dice and a copy of the following table for each group

Procedure: Write the list of words from the vocabulary exercise given in the Reader. Add additional words from the lesson.

Divide the class in groups and provide each group with a dice and a copy of the instruction table.

Students take turns to roll the dice and perform the given activity for the words on the board.

| | |
|--|--|
|  Define the word |  Draw it |
|  Make a list of synonyms |  What does it remind you of |
|  Use the word in a sentence |  Make a list of antonyms |

They can now complete the exercise given in the Reader.

LISTENING**While listening – directions**

Preparation: 10 small pieces of paper

Write down different locations in the school in each piece of paper.

Example: *Library, canteen, principal's office, staff room, reception, play ground*

Procedure: Ask for volunteers from the classroom.

One student comes to the front of the class, picks up a piece of paper and without revealing the location on her/his paper, instructs the class how to get to the location. The class / groups can create a map by following the instructions and guess the location.

Now that they are familiar with directions, ask them to listen carefully to the audio and chalk out the route in the map for Ravi to see the flamingos.

Play the audio once again and ask students to double check.

SPEAKING**Offer advice**

Students brainstorm a list of 10 advice topics that they use in daily life e.g. low grades, being late to class, etc. Students then use the phrases to ask for and give advice on the ten topics. In groups students role-play the situations by pretending that they run an advice program on the radio. They listen to their listeners' problems and reply, trying to give the best advice they can.

WRITING**Linkers**

Draw this table on the board / chart paper.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Contrasting | <i>in spite of / despite although / even though however / nevertheless / still / yet on the contrary / in contrast to / contrary to whereas</i> |
| Reason | <i>because / since / as</i> |
| Cause | <i>due to / owing to / because of</i> |
| Purpose | <i>in order to / so as</i> |
| Addition | <i>moreover / furthermore in addition to / besides</i> |

With the help of these linkers, students may complete the exercise given in the Reader.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY**Native Wisdom****Pre-reading**

Free response

Comprehension

- A.** 1. Leon was a poor South American hunter. He earned a living working as a guide for tourists who came to see the wildlife in the Amazon rainforest.

Leon enjoyed being a tourist guide as he loved the forest, even though he did not make a lot of money from it except when a rich tourist tipped him generously.

2. Leon took his shoes off because he could see where he was going and what he was stepping on and so, he felt that he did not have to wear shoes.

The tourist was surprised and puzzled to see Leon take his shoes off and thought it was foolish of Leon to do so.

3. Leon took the tourist inside the rainforest, along a small trail which he found off the river bank.

They passed through dense vegetation. It was dark and damp and it seemed to be devoid of any living creature to the tourist. It was only when Leon stopped and drew his attention that the tourist saw the different creatures of the rainforest.

He realised, for instance, that the moth flitting from flower to flower was actually a hummingbird; the thick liana, draped over a fallen tree, with a richly patterned bark and a flat head at one end was actually a boa constrictor; and the pretty flower he wanted to pick was a dangerous nettle.

4. The stingray is a flat fish that lies buried in the sand in stream beds and uses the sting in its long whip-like tail to hit and paralyse its prey. The tourist was walking barefoot in the stream. So, when he happened to step on a stingray, there was no shoe to protect his foot from its sting.

- B.**
1. a. The tourist said these words to Leon.
b. The tourist said this because he believed that forests were useful only if they yielded timber and other things which could be sold for a good sum of money. He did not appreciate forests for the richness of the plant and animal life that could be found there.
c. *Answers may vary. Accept all logical answers. Suggested answer:* These words show that the tourist does not seem to have any respect for the forest or its dwellers. He seems to be sceptical of the value of the forest even before he starts seeing it.
2. a. Leon said these words to the tourist.
b. Leon said these words because the tourist called him a 'Buckman' which is an insulting way to address a forest-dweller.
c. Leon is subtly telling the tourist that it is offensive to address him like that and that their friends or those who love and respect them do not address them like that.
Answers may vary. Accept all logical answers.
3. a. The tourist said these words to Leon.
b. When Leon and the tourist were walking along the trail, Leon had taken off his shoes and when they had to wade through the water, Leon had put on his shoes. The tourist thought that Leon was very foolish to do this. So, the tourist said these words.
Answers may vary. Accept all logical answers.
c. After this, when the tourist and Leon were crossing the stream, the tourist, who had taken off his shoes and was crossing barefoot, suddenly screamed in pain, as he had been stung by a stingray, which lay hidden in the water bed.
4. a. Leon said these words to the tourist.
b. Earlier, the tourist had laughed at Leon for taking off his shoes while walking on land and wearing them while crossing the stream. Leon had not said anything

at the time but now he wanted to make the tourist realise that he had a sensible reason for wearing his shoes while crossing the stream.

- c. Leon wants to tell the tourist that shoes are worn to protect the feet and hence we should wear them when we cannot see where we are going. So, it is not about protecting our shoes from getting damaged in water but about protecting our feet.

Answers may vary. Accept all logical answers

- C.** 1. a. Unfortunately, this was the kind of man who thought of forests only in terms of wood that could be extracted and who thought that all forest-dwellers were stupid and ignorant only because they often could not read and write. "Aha! Buckman," he said to Leon, "So, what does your rainforest have that is worth seeing, eh?"
- b. "No offence, pal," said the man, "but all you South American tribesmen are called buckmen, aren't you?"
- c. His companion was confused by this and said, "Hey man! Shoes are for the feet, not for carrying over your shoulder. If I were you, I'd wear them." The tourist took off his shoes and laughed out loud when he saw Leon putting on his shoes. "Man, this takes the cake," he said. "If you wade through water with shoes on, your shoes will get wet and spoilt."
2. Leon was a young forest-dweller who had great respect for the rainforest and its creatures and enjoyed being a tourist guide. Though he was not rude or disrespectful towards the rich tourist, who had no regard for forests and forest dwellers, he preferred to remain quiet and conveyed what needed to be done through his actions. He pointed out the rich and varied flora and fauna of the rainforest, so that the tourist would get to know about the beauty of the rainforest and learn to appreciate it. When the tourist yelled in pain, Leon did not laugh at him but used his knowledge and wisdom to soothe the wound by applying a salve from certain leaves. The tourist, on the other hand, was an arrogant person who thought he was smarter and better than the forest dwellers, for whom he had no respect and he did not even try to hide that. He did appreciate the beauty of the lovely rainforest, but only thought of it in terms of the wood that could be extracted from there. He had no love for animals which is evident from the fact that he could not even spot them on his own. He had no respect for forest-dwellers and thought they were ignorant and foolish. He did not take Leon's words and actions seriously. In fact, he mocked Leon and made fun of him.
3. The story is titled 'Native Wisdom' to teach us to respect traditional knowledge and wisdom even if they seem to be old-fashioned. Here, Leon's knowledge of the forest and its creatures, including how he could use certain leaves to make the salve to soothe the tourist's pain show the importance of native wisdom and hence we can say the story has been suitably titled. It also teaches us to respect other people's ways of life, even if they are different from our own.

Grammar

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| A. 2. or | 3. After | 4. because | 5. if |
| 6. when | 7. Before | 8. Although | |
| B. 2. because | 3. rather, than | 4. but | 5. If 6. even though |

Vocabulary

1. nocturnal
2. canopy
3. scavenge
4. groomed
5. flora, fauna
6. forage

Listening

Listening text

Ravi: Sir, please tell me how to get to the lake where the flamingos are.

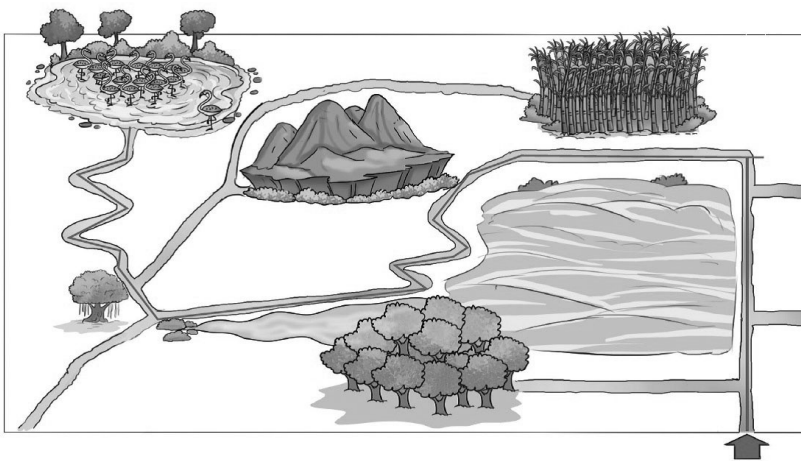
Park Ranger: Of course, pay close attention to my directions or else you may lose your way.

Ravi: Of course, sir!

Park ranger: Alright then. Once you enter the park through the gate on the right, go straight down the same road. Go past the meadows and then take the left near the bamboo grove. Go straight. To your left, you will see a road that curves around a cliff. Go slowly down that road because there are sharp curves. Go past the river on your left till you reach a fork with a large banyan tree in the middle. Take the road to the right and go down the curved road. Soon, you will see the lake.

Ravi: Thank you Sir! I will certainly follow your instructions carefully.

Answer:



Speaking

Free response

Writing

Suggested answer. Accept any logical answer.

It was a very hot year and all the lakes and ponds had dried up. So, the elephant king and his herd left their home in search of food and water. They walked for a long time. Presently, they came to a forest and found a river. The elephants drank water. Then, they played in the river. But near the riverbank, some rabbits had dug their burrows and while playing, the elephants stamped all over these burrows. Therefore, the rabbits were upset. So, the rabbit king decided to help his subjects. He took the elephant king to the water. Then, he pointed to the reflection of the moon and said that the moon wanted to speak to the elephant king. Now, the elephant king was frightened. As soon as he entered the water, he created ripples which made the reflection of the moon appear larger. The rabbit told the elephant that the moon was shaking in anger because the rabbits had lost their homes. So, the

terrified elephant begged for mercy. Furthermore, he promised to move to another part of the river. Now, the rabbits were safe and thanked their king.

Dictionary Work

1. trip 2. close 3. address 4. plot 5. taps

ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 6

- A.** 1. The horse stamped his feet impatiently because he was hungry.
2. Would you prefer to study now or tomorrow morning?
3. He had to stand since all the seats were taken.
4. She was very surprised when she heard the news.
5. She came to visit and stayed with us for two weeks.
6. He went to school although he was unwell.
- B.** 1. wildlife 2. woodland 3. forest floor
4. rainforest 5. sea-birds 6. camouflaged
- C.** *Free response*

QUESTION BANK

Native Wisdom

A. Answer in brief.

1. How is water found everywhere in the Amazon rainforest?

Ans: The forest absorbs the water from the rain like a sponge. The water slowly comes out in different places across the forest in the form of rivulets and streams. This water that flows in a network of countless streams falls into the river Amazon.

2. How did the American tourist insult the native South American tribesmen?

Ans: The tourist looked down upon the native people of the rain forest and called Leon 'Buckman', to the annoyance of Leon. Although Leon informed him that they do not like to be called 'Buckman', he neither apologised nor felt sorry for his behaviour.

B. Answer in detail.

1. How did the tourist treat Leon? What was Leon's reaction?

Ans: The rich tourist was quite disrespectful towards forest dwellers and thought they were stupid and ignorant as most of them could not read or write. He thought the same of Leon and called him Buckman which possibly hurt Leon, but he did not react or reply. The tourist further made fun of Leon every time he gave instructions which he felt were meaningless. Leon, as a dutiful guide was unaffected by the inconsiderate behaviour of the tourist and continued showing him the way without any argument or compulsion.

2. Narrate the instances when the tourist laughed at Leon. Was he correct in making fun of Leon?

Ans: Leon was a forest dweller and he knew exactly what one should do while travelling across the forest. Once, when they stepped onto the trail, Leon tied the laces of his shoes and threw them over his left shoulder. The tourist found this was a stupid act and said that shoes were meant for the feet and not for the shoulder. The next time when he saw Leon putting on his shoes before wading across a stream, he was thoroughly amused. He felt if one waded through water with shoes on, the shoes would get wet. But the tourist later understood that the forest dweller was correct after all.

C. Choose the correct answer.

Why do you think the tourist treated Leon in a disrespectful manner?

- a. He thought that all forest dwellers tried to cheat tourists because they were poor.
- b. He thought that Leon had a very disrespectful job as he was a tourist guide.
- c. He thought that all forest dwellers were ignorant and illiterate.

Ans: c

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. *If I were you, I would wear them.* (Native Wisdom)

- a. Who speaks the above lines? To whom?
- b. What does 'them' refer to?
- c. Why does the speaker make the above remark?

Ans: a. The above lines are spoken by the tourist to Leon.

- b. 'Them' refers to the pair of shoes which the forest dweller had put on his shoulders.
- c. The speaker makes the above remarks because, according to him, one should wear shoes to protect the feet while walking in the forests. He considers Leon as being stupid to wear them on his shoulder instead.

2. *It was only when Leon stopped and drew his attention that the tourist would see the many different creatures of the rainforest.*

- a. Why did Leon have to draw the tourist's attention?
- b. What was the tourist's attitude?
- c. What did the tourist learn?

Ans: a. The tourist seemed one such person who thought of forests only in terms of the wood that could be extracted. Hence Leon, the guide had to draw his attention to the beautiful sights that nature offered.

- b. He had an indifferent attitude towards Leon, a forest dweller who, according to the tourist, was stupid and ignorant.
- c. The tourist learnt that the things that looked like leaves and wood were actually different animals and birds.

D. Answer in brief. (Think and answer)

Why did Leon save the tourist even though the tourist had ridiculed him and made fun of him?

Ans: The rich tourist who met Leon was quite mean-tempered and ridiculed him often. Leon was a sincere and committed guide who wanted to earn a living by working as a guide. As the tourist was his responsibility, he had to warn him when required and perform his duties as a true guide.

E. Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

How did Leon prove himself to be wise, contrary to what the tourist thought of him?

Free response *Suggested answer:* The tourist had no idea about the rainforest and the precautions one needed to take while walking in the forest. Despite that, he took lightly Leon's efforts to guide him. At one point of time, he mistook a boa constrictor lying in wait for its prey, for the bark of a tree and he almost touched a dangerous nettle mistaking it for a flower. He ignored Leon's instruction to wear shoes while crossing the stream and as a result got stung by a stingray. If Leon had not helped him in time, he could have even died due to his own mistakes. The tourist considered the forest dweller stupid and illiterate but, in the end, it was his knowledge and presence of mind that saved the tourist.