

GRADE 4: MODULE 1A: UNIT 1: LESSON 1

Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address Greetings to the Natural World

Introduction

The Haudenosaunee give thanks daily, not just once a year. They give thanks for all things, from the water and sun to the insects and animals. Their thanksgiving address, called the Gano:nyok (ga-NYO-nyok), is a very important part of ceremonial and social gatherings. All social and ceremonial gatherings start and end with the Gano:nyok, which is sometimes called “the words that come before all else.” The Gano:nyok serves as a reminder to appreciate and acknowledge all things. The words express thanks for fellow human beings, Mother Earth, the moon, stars, sun, water, air, winds, animals, and more.

1- The People

Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty and responsibility to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give our greetings and our thanks to one another as people. Now our minds are one.

This translation of the Mohawk version of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address was drawn from the 1993 version that was developed by the Six Nations Indian Museum and the Tracking Project.

<http://danceforallpeople.com/haudenosaunee-thanksgiving-address/>