

**Title**

Rules To Live By.

**Grade Level**

Junior high.

**Theme**

Respect/ self-control.

**Duration****Goal**

Students will create a set of classroom rules using as the basis for their development the Lakota concepts of the seven directions and respect.

**Objectives**

Students will be able to

1. Retell the basic Lakota creation story.
2. Discuss the importance of the seven directions.
3. Know the relationships of the major deities in the creation story.
4. Identify the symbols associated with each of the *Tate Topa* (Four Winds).
5. Develop a set of classroom rules based on respect and self-control as evidenced through their readings and discussion.
6. Cooperate with each other.
7. Complete all projects.

**South Dakota Standards**

Reading: 7.R.5.2 Students can analyze and organize data from a variety of sources.

7.R.1.1 Students can analyze and organize word parts to determine meaning and context.

7.R.1.2 Students can infer how word choice affects meaning.

Writing: 7.W.1.3 Students can select language and style for writing.

7.W.1.4 Students can summarize and paraphrase information from references to compose text.

Listening, Viewing, Speaking:

7.LVS.1.3 Students can create organized descriptive, informative, and narrative presentations.

**Cultural Concept**

The concept of directionality, earth, sky, the four directions, and center, is central to Lakota culture.

**Cultural Background**

In the beginning was *Inyan*, who set creation in motion. In the process of creating *Maka* (Earth), *Inyan* became rock. The creation of *Skani* (Sky) followed. Eventually, the grandsons of *Inyan*, the *Tate Topa*, or Four Winds, came into being. Each of the Four Winds has a distinct personality and a specific direction. Each is also associated with a specific color and a special bird. The idea of respect and self-control is woven throughout

the creation story and is especially evident within the stories of the Four Winds.

*The sun dance and other ceremonies of the Oglala division of the Teton Dakota* contains interviews conducted by James R. Walker, a physician on the Pine Ridge reservation from 1896-1914. Walker's interviews of elders and medicine men contain valuable information for understanding and teaching about Lakota culture.

### **Student Activities**

1. Teacher will set the stage with a rock(s) and oral reading of *Otokahekapapi (first beginnings): Sioux creation story* by Thomas Simms.
2. Students will write a retelling of the basic creation story and share their retellings within a group of four.
3. Students will be introduced to additional material and requirements.
4. Within their groups, students will create a family tree showing relationships among the major deities and share these with the class.
5. Teacher will present additional selected literature and guidelines for note taking.
6. Students will take notes based on their reading of a section from "Secret Instructions for a Shaman" (Walker, pp. 78-92) which includes details about the *Tate Topa*.
7. Individually, students will then create a list of seven rules, one based on each of the personality types presented (Earth, Sky, the Four Winds, with the center being self).
8. Within their groups of four, students will come to a consensus in order to create a list of no more than seven rules to live by within the classroom community and create a visual to present to the class.
9. Through teacher-led discussion the class will establish a list of no more than seven rules to govern the classroom community.

### **Resources**

Handouts, poster board, and markers.

### **Assessment**

Self-assessment, group evaluation, and oral presentations.

### **References**

- Simms, T. E. (1987). *Otokahekapapi (first beginnings): Sioux creation story*. Chamberlain, South Dakota: Tipi Press.
- Walker, J. R. (1917). Secret instructions for a shaman [excerpt from The sun dance]. In *The sun dance and other ceremonies of the Oglala division of the Teton Dakota* (Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. 16, pt. 2, pp. 78-92). New York: American Museum of Natural History.
- Walker, J. R. (1917). [Excerpts from Narratives]. In *The sun dance and other ceremonies of the Oglala division of the Teton Dakota* (Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. 16, pt. 2, pp. 164-182). New York: American Museum of Natural History.

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