

Month Matching activity

Demonstrating the impact of the environment on Stó:lō people – presently and time immemorial.

Materials: Month grid - English month words and Halq'eméylem ("Halkomaylem") month words
Seasonal Round picture
Questions, answers and explanations

Lesson: **Introduce:** Who the Stó:lō people are and their territory along the Fraser River (Hope to Langley)
Explain: Today our lives follow the pattern of the months of the year. We can physically count the days until Halloween
Using the season examples; tell the students what the names mean. Ask them why the name would have the meaning.

Spring **Temkw'íles (Time when things are coming up)**

Summer **Temkw'ók'wes (Time when things are hot)**

Autumn **Temhílaxw (Time when things are finished)**

Winter **Temxéytl' (Time when things are cold)**

Traditionally when there was no calendar Stó:lō people would follow the patterns of Nature, that would tell them when to do different activities. They would follow the moon, the sun, the animals and plants.

Just like the names of the seasons didn't exist 10 000 years ago, the month names didn't exist 10 000 years ago either.

Activity #1: Students will work in small groups to match the name of the calendar month to the name of the Halq'eméylem month.

1. Hand out the baggie of mixed month names
2. Students given time to match the calendar month to the Halq'eméylem month
3. When teacher feels enough time has passed for the groups
 - a. teacher goes through the answers with the students, having discussions as to what the items are and why it would be called the month
 - b. Teacher can connect to the students personal experiences with the descriptor words of the Stó:lō months
4. When all groups have the correct English months and Halq'eméylem months matching - students glue or paper clip the names back to back

Note: torchlight fishing was done when the water in the river (Fraser) was clear. Spring salmon was available in the river during this time.

Activity #2: (still in small groups) Teacher will ask students questions to reinforce the fact that the environment had and still has a great impact on Stó:lō people today and traditionally from time immemorial.

After each question posed by the teacher students hold up the name of the month (English word or Halq'eméylem word showing) that the group feels the event applies to.



Teacher may ask his or her own questions or ask a choice of the following questions.

Points may be won if making a game out of it.

Questions:

1. **If my birthday is in September when is my birthday?**
TEMTHEQI, TEMKW'Ó:LEXW
2. **What months are in the season of Spring Temkw'íles (Time when things are coming up)?**
March, April, May
WELEK'ES, TEMKWÌKWEXEL, TEM'ELÍLE
3. **When would the Stó:lō people use mat shelters at hunting, fishing, plant gathering sites?**
(Mats would be made out of bulrush plants; like today's tents.)
March, April, May, June, July, August, September
WELEK'ES, TEMKWÌKWEXEL, TEM'ELÍLE, TEMQ'ÓQ'Ó, TEMQWÁ:L, TEMTHEQI, TEMKW'Ó:LEXW
4. **What months would the Stó:lō people traditionally live in the longhouses?**
September, October, November
TEMKW'Ó:LEXW, TEMPÓ:KW', XETS'Ö:WESTEL
5. **What months would the Stó:lō people traditionally live in the pit houses?**
(the coldest times of the year.)
December, January, February and possibly March
MEQÓ:S, PELÓ:QES, TEMT'ELEMTSES, WELEK'ES
6. **What Months would the Stó:lō people traditionally make their blankets from the mountain goat or wooly dog fleece in the longhouse?**
October, November, December, January
TEMPÓ:KW', XETS'Ö:WESTEL, MEQÓ:S, PELÓ:QES
7. **What month were the supplies gathered for the fishing nets, wool blankets and the bulrush mats?**
(Fishing nets would be made from plant material)
June, July, August, September, October, November
TEMQ'ÓQ'Ó, TEMQWÁ:L, TEMTHEQI, TEMKW'Ó:LEXW, TEMPÓ:KW', XETS'Ö:WESTEL
8. **What month were berries picked?**
June, July, August
TEMQ'ÓQ'Ó, TEMQWÁ:L, TEMTHEQI
9. **What month was also called Lhemtóles (Spring Showers in the eye)?**
April
TEMKWÌKWEXEL
10. **When was the hunting deer season?**
September, October, November
TEMKW'Ó:LEXW, TEMPÓ:KW', XETS'Ö:WESTEL



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