



Practice these phrases and use them during iskgamizigan season!

ISKIGAMIZIGANING IZHAADAA!

Let's go to the Sugar Bush!

Akawe gibiindaakoojige dabwaa-iskigamizigeyan.

First, you make a tobacco offering before you sugar.

It is a good way to offer tobacco to the spirits every spring before starting a sugar bush. If you don't know what to say, the following is a great example!

Boozhoo manidoog. Odaapinamaw-ishinaang wa'aw asemaa. Dabwaa-ozhiga'wangidwaa niwii-biindaa-koonanaanig ingiw mitigoog. Nimiigwechiwi'aanaanig ingiw manidoog.

Hello, spirits. Accept from us this tobacco. Before we tap trees, we want to offer tobacco to those spirits. We thank those spirits.

Ikidowinan / Vocabulary

The following three types of trees are the most popularly tapped in the Red Cliff area.

aninaatig / ininaatig	sugar maple tree
aninaatigoog / ininaatigoog	sugar maple trees
Mii wa'aw aninaatig. / Mii wa'aw ininaatig.	This is a sugar maple tree.
zhiishiigimewanzh	red maple tree
zhiishiigimewanzhiig	red maple trees
Mii wa'aw zhiishiigimewanzh.	This is a red maple tree.
zhiishiigimiiwanzh	silver maple tree
zhiishiigimiiwanzhiig	silver maple trees
Mii wa'aw zhiishiigimiiwanzh.	This is a silver maple tree.

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Many trees can be tapped for sugar, including the following, though some are less common to find in this region. Sugars like that of the yellow birch tree will taste different than maple sugar.

aajaagobiimizh(iig)	black maple tree(s)
zhaashaagobiimag(oog)	boxelder(s) (aka Manitoba maple tree(s))
wiigwaasi-mitig(oog)	white birch tree(s)
wiinizik(oog)	yellow birch tree(s)
binemizh(iig)	gray birch tree(s)
waawiye-bagaan(ag)	black walnut tree(s)

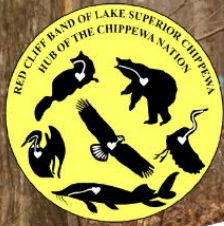
iskgamizigan	Sugar bush
iskgamiziganing	to/at/in the sugar bush
negwaakwaan	a tap
akik	a bucket
gibaabowe'igan	a lid
naseyaawangwaan	a sugaring trough
ziinzibaakwadwaabo	maple sap
zhiiwaagamizigan	maple syrup
ziinzibaakwad / anishinaabe-ziinzibaakwad	maple sugar
bigiwizigan	maple taffy
wiishkobi-zhizhoo'igan / anishinaabe-wiishkobi-zhizhoo'igan	maple butter
biisiga'isaan	kindling wood

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See if you can say the following each time you do it or think it!

Niwii-izhaa iskgamiziganing.	I want to go to sugar bush.
Nidayaa iskgamiziganing.	I am at sugar bush.
Ningii-izhaa iskgamiziganing.	I went to sugar bush.
Ozhiga'ige.	S/he taps (trees).
Niwii-ozhiga'ige.	I want to tap (trees).
Nindoozhiga'ige.	I am tapping (trees).
Ningii-ozhiga'ige.	I tapped (trees).
Niwii-naadoobii.	I want to gather sap.
Ninaadoobii.	I am gathering sap.
Ningii-naadoobii.	I gathered sap.
Niwii-taashkiga'ise.	I want to split firewood.
Nindaashkiga'ise.	I am splitting firewood.
Ningii-taashkiga'ise.	I split firewood. (past tense)
Niwii-boodawe.	I want to build a fire.
Nimboodawe.	I am building a fire.
Ningii-boodawe.	I built a fire.
Niwii-iskigamizige.	I want to boil down sap.
Nindiskigamizige.	I am boiling down sap.
Ningii-iskigamizige.	I boiled down sap.

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Niwii-shiiwaagamizige.	I want to make maple syrup.
Ninzhiwaagamizige.	I am making maple syrup.
Ningii-shiiwangamizige.	I made maple syrup.
Niwii-ombigamizige.	I want to sugar off.*
Nindoombigamizige.	I am sugaring off.
Ningii-ombigamizige.	I sugared off.
Niwii-abwe.	I want to cook over the fire.
Nindabwe.	I am cooking over the fire.
Ningii-abwe.	I cooked over the fire.
Niwii-aniibiishaabooke.	I want to make tea.
Nindaniibiishaabooke.	I am making tea.
Ningii-aniibiishaabooke.	I made tea.
Aabajitoon.	Use it.
Naadin.	Go get it.
Wiinaagamin.	The sap is dirty.
Biinaagamin.	The sap is clean.
Ziikoobiiganan.	Strain / filter it.
Biinaagamitoon.	Clean it.

* "Sugaring off" is in reference to that entire process beyond making maple syrup.

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G: Aaniin minik mitigoog gaa-ozhiga'wadwaa?	Q: How many trees did you tap?
N: _____ mitigoog ningii-ozhiga'waag.	A: I tapped _____ trees.
G: Maajigaawag ina?	Q: Have they started running yet?
N: Enh/enya' gii-maajigaawag. Gaawiin gii-maajigaasiwag.	A: Yes, they started running. No, they haven't started running.
G: Aaniin ezhi-onjigaawaad?	Q: How are they running?
N: Gizhiigaawag. Bejigaawag. Iskigaawag.	A: They're running fast. They're running slow. They stopped running.
G: Aaniin eko-naadoobiiyan?	Q: How much sap did you collect?
N: Naano-minikwajigan nindayaan.	A: I have 5 gallons.
G: Aaniin apii waa-iskigamizigeyan?	Q: When are you going to boil?
N: _____ -giizhigak.	A: _____ day.
G: Aaniindi gidiskigamizigan?	Q: Where is your sugarbush?
N: _____ ayaamagad.	A: It is there _____.
G: Gidaa-wiidookoon ina da-onjigaayan?	Q: Do you need any help collecting?
N: Geget, gidaa-wiidookaw. Gaawiin ningashkitoosiin.	A: For sure, you can help me. I'm not able to do it.
G: Niwii-naadinise. Gidaa-wiidookaw ina?	Q: I want to gather firewood. Can you help me?
N: Eya' giga-wiidookoon.	A: Yes, I'll help you!

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There are plenty of great Anishinaabemowin/Ojibwemowin learning resources, such as:

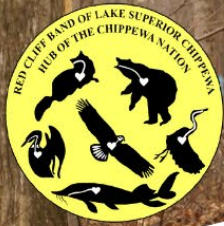
- *Ambe, Ojibwemodaa Endaayang!: Come on, Let's Talk Ojibwe at Home!* by Jessie Clark and Rick Gresczyk (a beginner to intermediate resource)
- *Awesiinyensag* edited by Anton Treuer et al. (an intermediate to advanced resource)
- *Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood* by Maude Kegg (an intermediate to advanced resource). In this book, you'll find passages such as the following:

- [1] Miinawaa mewinzha ko iwidi waasa ingii-taamin. Ingoji go nisimidana daso-diba'igan daa-ikido a'aw gichi-mookomaan.
- [2] Bebezhiigooganzhiin iko ogii-odaabii'aawaan, miish imaa ba-izhaayaang imaa iskgamiziganing gii-izhi-wiinde. Mii imaa gii-ayaanig i'iw odiskigamizigewigamig a'aw mindimooyenh. Mii i'iw gii-ozhitood. Gaawiin igo ingezikwendanziin gaa-izhitood iskgamizigewigamig. Indigo waakaa'igan izhi-naagwad.
- [3] Miish imaa naawayi'ii ezhi-onakidood i'iw iskgamiziganaak ezhi-wiindeg. Niiwin eyishkwe-ayi'ii obadakinaanan iniw mitigoon, obadakinaawaan. Miish ezhi-aazhawaakosidoowaad imaa i'iw mitig. Miish miinawaa odadaakwaakoga'aanaawaan wawiinge gaye obishagikodaanaawaan iniw mitigoon. Miish imaa iniw agoodakikwaanan ayaamagak. Enda-onizhishinoon iniw agoodakikwaanan.
- [4] Miish ingiw akikoog agoojinowaad. Bezhiig a'aw akik niigaan-agoojin iwidi. Miish imaa ani-ziiginamowaad apane go imaa ini-zhiiwaagamideg i'iw. Mii ezhi-zhiiwaagamiziganikewaad.
- [5] Miish azhigwa giizhigamideg, mii i'iw ziinzibaakwad, ziinzibaakwad azhigwa zhiiwaagamideg.
- [6] Gaawiin odagwaashimaasiwaawaan. Gozigwani a'aw akik. Gozigwan i'iw zhiiwaagamizigan. Miish eyiidawayi'ii ezhi-minjiminamowaad i'iw mitig, ozhooshkonaanaawaa, ozhooshkwaakonaanaawaa, ozhooshkwaakonaanaawaan iniw akikoon. Miish gaawiin jaagizosiin imaa; ingiwedig-sh aanind endakamidemagak.
- [7] Mii i'iw ayi'ii ziinzibaakwadwaaboo, oziikoobiinaanaawaa gaye, ayi'ii bagiwayaanish i'iw odaabajitonaawaa ziikoobiiginamowaad i'iw zhiiwaagamizigan. Apane gaa-izhichigewaad.
- [8] Ginwenzh imaa gii-ayaamadag i'iw iskgamizigewigamig izhi-wiinde. Gaawiin noongom wiikaa ingoiji niwaabandanziin geyaabi, mii iniw.
- [9] Mii go endaso-ziigwaning, bi-maajaad, bi-maajaawaad, bi-maajaayaang, mii eta go datakobidood wiigob ge-aabajitood miinawaa apakwaadang. Giishpin-sh goon niibowa abid imaa, omangaanibaadaanaawaa miinawaa. Gaawiin mitakamig zhingishinziiwag. Mii ezhi-desa'oniked, dibishkoo go nibaagan. Mii nibiiwakamigaag eni-apiichi-ningideg i'iw ayi'ii, i'iw ayi'ii aki, imaa biindig. Aanish, mii go apane, mii go gaye niibaa-dibik ezhi-iskgamizigewaad. Gaawiin agwajiing gii-tazhi-iskgamizigesiin mewinzha anishinaabe.

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- [1] And a long time ago we used to live far away. It was about thirty miles as the white man would say.
- [2] They used to drive horses when we came here to Iskgamiziganing 'The Sap Boiling Place', as it was called. That's where the old lady's sap-boiling lodge was. She made it. I don't remember how she made that sap-boiling lodge. It looked like a house.
- [3] In the middle she put up what's called an *iskigamiziganaak* 'sap boiling frame'. She put up four sticks, [two] on each end, they put them up. They laid a stick across [each set of end poles]. Then they chopped some short sticks and carefully peeled them [to go over the cross sticks]. The kettle hangers were [attached to them] there. The kettle hangers were really nice.
- [4] That's where the kettles hung. One kettle hung there at the front. That's where they kept pouring it as it thickened into syrup. That's how they made syrup.
- [5] Then when it was done boiling, the sugar thickened into syrup.
- [6] They didn't just take it off the fire. The kettle was heavy. The syrup was heavy. Holding the [short peeled] stick on both ends, they slid it, slid it along on a stick, slid the kettle along on a stick. It didn't get burnt there then, but the other ones were left to boil.
- [7] They used a rag to strain the syrup. They were always doing that.
- [8] That sap-boiling lodge, as it was called, was there a long time. I never see any of them anywhere today.
- [9] Every spring when they came over, when she came over, all she [grandmother] had to do was tie it up using the inner bark of the basswood and cover it. If there was a lot of snow there, they shovelled it out again. They didn't lie down to sleep on the bare ground. She made a platform just like a bed. The ground was wet as long as it kept thawing out there inside. Well, they kept boiling sap there through the night. Long ago the Indian didn't boil sap outside.

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