

A Mi'gmaq Story Acorn and the Oak Tree



Pre-reading Activities:

Part A: New Vocabulary:

The word	Write a sentence in present, present continuous or future tense for each of these words. Make sure you use the nouns as subjects or objects, the verbs as predicates, etc.	Verb tense you used.
NOUNS	Are words that name people, places, things and ideas – Underline the verbs in each Sentence:	
Mi'kmaq Mi'gmaq (Micmac)	The Mi'gmaq <u>are relearning</u> how <u>to do</u> traditional crafts.	Present continuous
version	This version of the bible <u>is easy to read</u> .	Present simple
branch	There <u>is</u> a bird <u>sitting on</u> a branch of the tree.	Present continuous
leaf		
trunk		
nut		
seed		
Mother Earth		
direction		
shade		
shell		
spot		
connection		
brook		
stream		
creek		
adventure		
roots (noun)		
waterway		
shoreline		
deer		
moose		
muskrat		

river		
squirrel		
beach		
sandy		
sea		
moisture		
cap		
patience		
autumn		
soil		
layers		
Mouth (of a river)		
bottom		
result		
Adjectives and Adverbs	Are words that describe and give details about a noun or a verb. Write adjective or adverb under the word in your sentence. Underline the verb and circle the adverb or adjective.	Verb Tense Used
ancestral – (ancestors)	Her <u>ancestral</u> house <u>is</u> at the ocean. adjective	Present Simple
creative	She <u>is</u> very <u>creative</u> ! adverb	Present simple
nutty		
sturdy		
Frozen		
Thick		
eventually		
pointed		
mighty		
rounded		
firmly		

golden		
VERBS	Are action or being words – After writing the sentence, underline the verbs in the sentence.	Verb Tense used
To melt	The snow <u>is going to melt</u> tomorrow!	Future simple
To surround (surrounded)	The horses <u>are surrounding</u> the new baby foal.	Future continuous
To encourage (encouraged)		
To discourage (discouraged)		
To realize		
To stay		
To shelter		
To root (rooted)		
To sway		
To seek (seeking)		
To stretch		
To reach (reached)		
To travel (travelling)		
To wonder (wondered)		
To attach (attached)		
To flow (flowed)		
To sigh (sighed)		
To thaw (thawed)		
To dig (dug)		
To store (storing)		
To sigh (sighed)		
To shake (shaken)		
Bored (he was bored)		
To remember		
To feed (fed)		
To show (shown)		
To join (joined)		



A Mi'gmaq Story Acorn and the Oak Tree

The oak tree is a beautiful tree with either pointed or rounded leaves. It is a nut tree and it has acorns on it. This story is based on a traditional Mi'gmaq story I learned from Evan Pritchard who learned it from his grandfather. It is my own creative version of this story from my ancestral nation.

Photo by Simon Harvey, 2005 from Flickr.com and Creativecommons.org

There once was a big oak tree that had strong roots and nice thick trunk and branches that grew in all directions. In the summer, this beautiful tree was covered in golden and green leaves. The big tree was like a special father to hundreds and hundreds of little acorns. These little nuts looked up at the top of the tree, looked down at the bottom of the tree and saw how special it was. The tree also had leaves that gave Mother Earth shade and helped the soil when they fell off the tree each fall.

One of those little acorns was on the branch always stuck in the same spot. The little acorn looked up to his father and sighed. It said "Father, how come I am small and little and you get to be big and strong? I want to be sturdy and give Mother Earth shade too". Well this little acorn was stuck on one branch and his father got to sway in the wind, reach for the sky and stretch its roots in all directions seeking water. The Father Oak knew his son needed to be encouraged, so he said "My special little son. You are special too. You are a nutty seed and inside you is everything you will ever be. All your gifts are inside that hard shell and under the little hat waiting to be found and waiting to be shown to the world. Have no fear that you are smaller than me, because you are just as special as any big strong oak tree. In the future, you will see that I speak the truth".

The little acorn did not have a lot of patience to wait for the future. He sat on a branch of the tree waiting. In the autumn, in his land, it gets cold and the leaves start to fall off. The acorn looked around him and could see all the other little acorns and he did not feel special. As winter came the winds came and they were cold so the little acorn was happy that he had a cap on top of him. As the winds blew, he was shaken and his connection to the oak tree, his father, was weakened. After many winds blowing he fell off the tree to the ground. He was sad. "Why did I have to fall off of his little branch attached to the big tree?, he wondered. As snow fell, the little acorn felt layers and layers of snow cover him, where he sat. He just rested there under all that snow.

After winter, in his land, comes the spring. In the spring, all the snow and water melt, and the rivers run very high. The little acorn had frozen to the ground but as the snow melted, the ground thawed and he was surrounded with water. The water ran down hill and took him to a brook. The little brook ran into a stream and the little stream flowed into a creek.

Each of these waterways was bigger than the one he had been in before. Each one was flowing stronger. This was very exciting for a little acorn that had never left his home on the mighty oak tree. As he floated in first

the brook, then the stream and then creek he looked at the shorelines to all he could see. He saw many different kinds of trees, and plants, big rocks and little rocks, animals such as deer, moose and muskrats and above the water he saw birds flying. In these waterways, there also were frogs and fish. Each waterway was larger and so were the fish in the larger waterways. He also saw two leggeds – humans along the shores of this adventure on water. Finally, the creek he was in, joined up with a big river and that big river joined an even bigger river.

As spring changed into summer, snow and ice was no longer melting and as a result all the waterways became lower and smaller again. One morning, the little acorn realized he was no longer moving. He was still. “Where am I?”, he wondered. He was on the shore of a very big river, near its mouth where it met the sea. He was still and could no longer move and he wondered why. It was clear he could not walk and so there he sat not moving. He was not stuck on a tree like the previous summer, but he was stuck on a sandy beach. After his big water adventure, he was bored just sitting there. He missed the fun of travelling by water.

After a long time of sitting on the shore of the great river he felt himself move again. He had been picked up by a squirrel. The squirrel was preparing for winter by picking up all the nuts it could find and storing them in special secret places. This squirrel had a hole dug in the ground and he put the acorn in that hole and covered it with leaves. The acorn was still again. He sat for some time and then snow covered his shell again. As he sat he felt himself change. His shell had got soft from all the water and snow. The moisture had made his shell soft and the next spring he felt himself grow roots that broke through that soft shell. The roots reached down to the earth of Mother Earth and he was firmly rooted to her. Around the same time he realized he had lost his cap on his big adventures with water and squirrel.

The roots grew a little green plant that started with only two leaves, then four leaves and so on. Eventually the little acorn was a plant that broke free from the shell. As it was planted by the squirrel it eventually grew taller and taller. The little acorn had grown so much that he was no longer an acorn, he was a tree, he was an oak tree. He was so surprised to realize he had stayed firmly rooted to the land and had grown into a big oak tree just like his father had been. An oak tree can live 1,000 years and every year make many acorn nuts. This little acorn that now was a tree, remembered his father saying “You are special in your own way and you will be something important too”. This tree remembered this and was happy that his branches had birds land on them, that squirrels ran up and down on his trunk and that his leaves sheltered mother earth with shade and his acorns fell off, fed animals, and grew into even more little trees.

Part B: The scientific information about the oak tree: Do this in point form...list facts that are scientific. Use a dictionary or online science dictionary if you do not understand words you are reading.

After Reading - Part C. Outline of the Main Ideas in each paragraph: Write this in point form.

Paragraph 1. a. The oak tree has rounded or pointed leaves.

b. Nut tree – acorns

c. The story is traditional from Mi'gmaq nation

d. It is a creative version of an old story

2.

3.

4.

5.

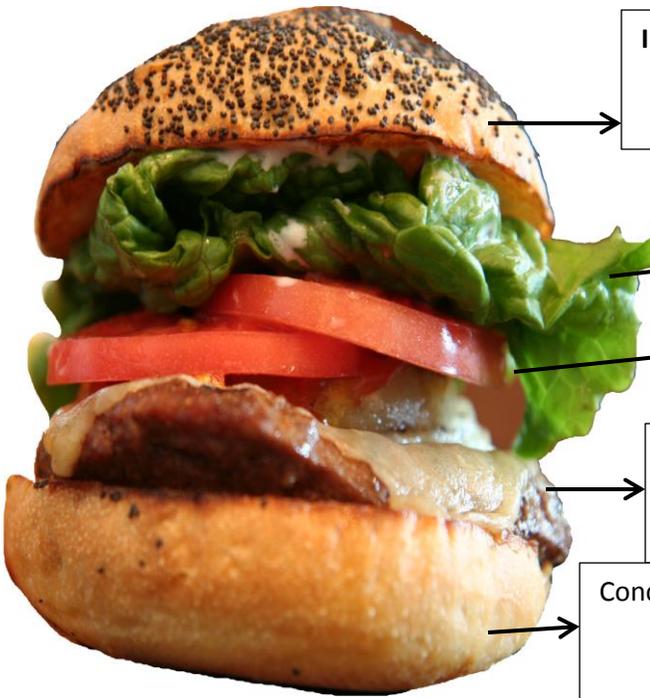
6.

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Next plan a paragraph to explain what you learned from this story. Your paragraph will explain a lesson someone can find in this story about how to live in a good way.



Intro. Sentence – write it here
Body sentence 2 – one key idea that supports the intro. sentence
Body sentence 3 – one key idea that supports the intro. sentence
Body sentence 4 – one key idea that supports the intro. sentence
Concluding Sentence wraps up the paragraph