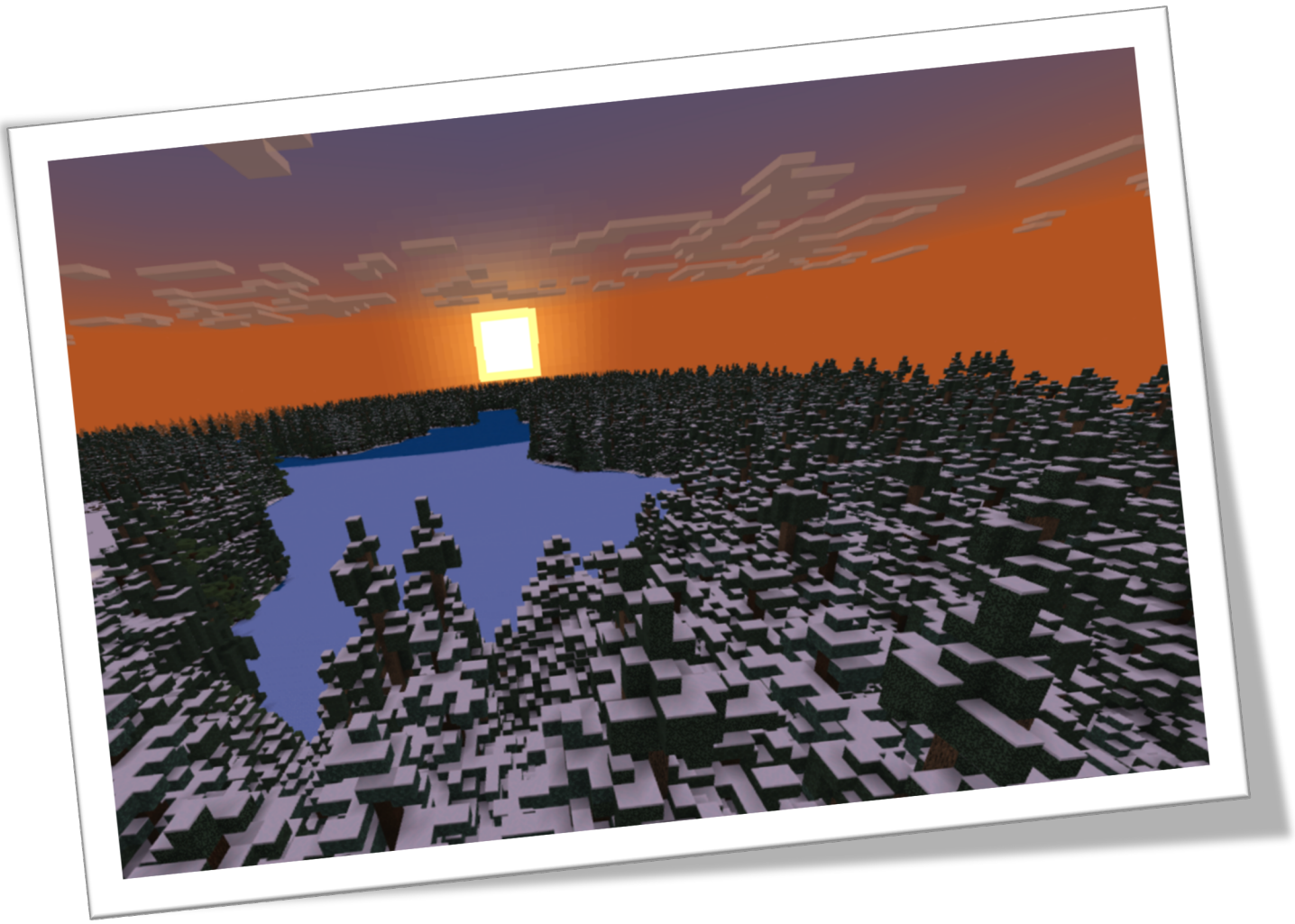


Pimachiowin Aki: The Land That Gives Life



Student Guide – Phase 1

Phase 1 Student Guide Overview

Welcome to Pimachiowin Aki (/ˌpɪˈmætʃəwɪn ɑːˈkiː/ pih-MATCH-uh-win ah-KEE). As a guest of the Anishinaabeg Nations, you will receive teachings about the environment and traditional methods of travel, tracking, trapping, sustainable hunting, fishing, and sheltering. You will also explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pimachiowin Aki located in Manitoba's eastern boreal forest while discovering the rich biodiversity and culture of the region. The Bloodvein River (*Miskwewesipi*) camp will act as your community in Phase 1, inviting you to return after each successful experience. Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land will offer you their wisdom and expertise before and during each experience.

Here are the activities in Phase 1 of Pimachiowin Aki:

- Activity 1a: Meet Community Members
- Activity 1b: Land Travel, Tracking, and Trapping
- Activity 2: Sheltering and Ice Fishing
- Activity 3: Sustainable Hunting





Activity 1a: Meet Community Members

Activity 1a: Take some time at spawn to read the land acknowledgement and meet each of the community members who will enrich your learning in Phase 1 of Pimachiowin Aki. Remember that each NPC has an Immersive Reader button that will allow you to have the text read to you aloud. You will be given a camera, portfolio for your pictures, and a book and quill journal to capture your experiences. Several local videos can be found under the NPC “Learn More” buttons, and these can help become more familiar with the environment and the people you will encounter. This Minecraft Education map is a model of the Bloodvein River system. Once you’ve met and listened to each of the community members, Use Kenny Benson’s link to begin Activity 1b and learn about land travel, tracking, and trapping fur-bearing game in Pimachiowin Aki’s boreal forest.

Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land:

Gabriel Green	Leslie Orvis	Frank Young	Emily Skye	William "Banjo" Young	Kenny Benson
					

Look for these icons:

- ❖ Knowledge Keeper and Stewards of the Land teachings
- ✓ Challenges to complete in the world
- ○ Things to gather and craft
- • Things to plan and think about to be successful in the world

Visit the Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land for teachings on the following:

- ❖ Introduction to Gifts – Gabriel Green
- ❖ Introduction to Phase 1 Activities - Leslie Orvis
- ❖ Introduction to Pimachiowin Aki – Frank Young
- ❖ Introduction to Community Contributing and Land Acknowledgement - Emily Sky
- ❖ Introduction to the Bloodvein River – William “Banjo” Young
- ❖ Introduction to the Bloodvein First Nation – Kenny Benson

Do:

- ✓ Review the Land Acknowledgement at Spawn
- ✓ Meet each of the community members ending with Kenny Benson
- ✓ Photograph each community member and name them in your portfolio
- ✓ Add a title to your book and quill journal
- ✓ Use Kenny Benson’s button to visit Activity 1b





Activity 1b: Land Travel, Tracking, and Trapping

Adventure Mode; single player

Student Objectives:

As guest of the Anishinaabeg community living on Turtle Island, this activity allows you to explore the importance of dog sledding and caring for sled dogs. It also allows you to experience the proper setting of a trap line for furbearers through the teachings from Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land. After gathering the resources needed to craft traps and a dog sled, you will travel on a trail setting your traps in the ideal locations. After a successful trapping experience, you will return to the central community wigwams by dogsled, build a shelter and fire for your dogs, and then contribute your trappings to the community via Emily Skye's "Contribute" button. Then, you can begin Activity 2 using Emily Skye's Activity 2 button.

Content Warning: This activity involves taking the life of an animal and may be a sensitive topic and action. If at any time during this experience, you do not feel comfortable with an action or task, you have the right to alter the activity in any way necessary. Remember, the animals' sacrifice is essential for the survival of the community and is not taken lightly. All sacrifices should be respected and honoured.

Visit the Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land for teachings on the following:

- Crafting Traps – Frank Young
- Explanation of Activity 1b - Leslie Orvis

- ❖ Crafting a Dog Sled – Gabriel Green
- ❖ Stewardship of the Land - Emily Sky
- ❖ Placing and Setting an Ideal Trap Line – William “Banjo” Young

On the Trail:

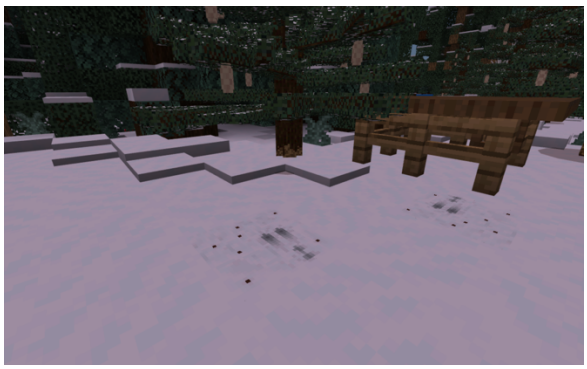
- ❖ Caring for Sled Dogs – Kenny Benson

Plan

- Your Minecraft inventory will include a dog sled, traps, portfolio, camera, book and quill, stone axe, and leads. Use the camera and book and quill to document your understanding as you explore Pimachiowin Aki.

Do:

- ✓ Meet each member to receive gifts and teachings.
- ✓ Collect the necessary materials to help the community members successfully craft a trap line and dog sled.
- ✓ Learn from William “Banjo” Young how and where to set traps successfully.
- ✓ Look for the Jack Pine species of tree and set your five-trap trap line in the ideal spots near these trees.
- ✓ Harvest the trapped animals using your axe and gather their resources. Act quickly.
- ✓ Return to camp and leash your sled dogs using a fence post, build a shelter for the dogs, and place a warm fire for them.
- ✓ Deliver your trappings to the community with support from Emily Skye using her “Contribute” button.

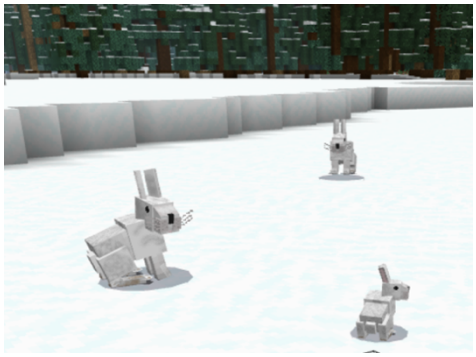




Helpful tips:

- Memorize key landforms and environmental features to keep track of where you are in relation to the main community.
- Dog sleds can move quickly over snow. Try to limit how fast you go to avoid spills and injuring your dogs.

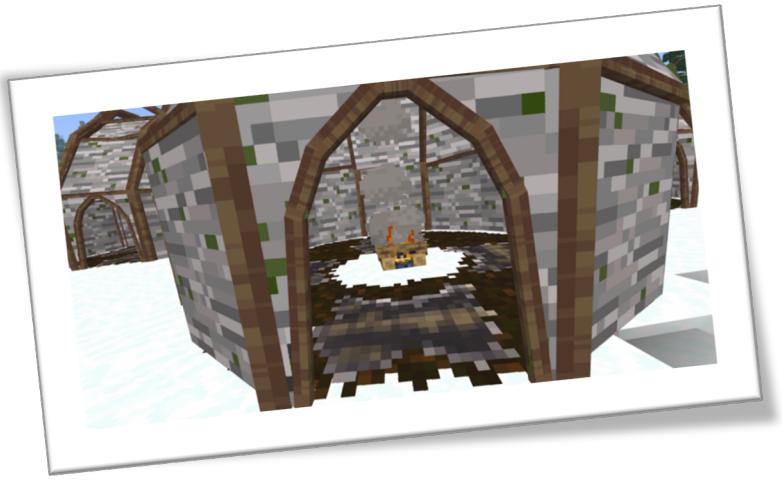
- Practice patience when trapping. It can take some time for the traps to work but have faith in your tools and your trap placement.
- Be respectful and thankful for each trapped animal and avoid waste. They have given everything to keep you and your family strong.
- Leave only footprints. Clean up anything unnatural after a successful trapping trip.











Activity 2: Sheltering and Ice Fishing

Adventure Mode; single player

Student Objectives:

Winter can be very challenging for the Anishinaabeg community and shelter from the elements during all seasons is extremely important. This activity encourages you to explore sheltering in the form of wigwams which are used in the traditional Anishinaabeg community. Activity 2 also invites you to experience the essential practice of ice fishing on the frozen waterways of the Bloodvein River that run through Pimachiowin Aki. Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land will support you in both adventures in Activity 2 - Sheltering and Ice Fishing. After returning to the community to feed others with your bountiful catch, you will then proceed to Activity 3 – Sustainable Hunting. Emily Skye can direct you there after your fishing contribution to the community.

Visit the Knowledge Keepers for teachings on the following:

- Wigwams and the Importance of Shelters – William "Banjo" Young
- Choosing a Safe and Ideal Ice Fishing Location – Kenny Benson

Plan:

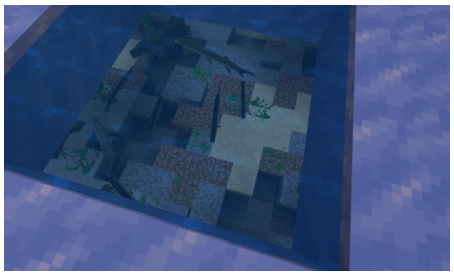
- Your Minecraft inventory will include fishing rods, axes, wind and sun sheltering, a camera, portfolio, and a book and quill. Use the camera and book and quill to document your understanding as you successfully complete this activity.

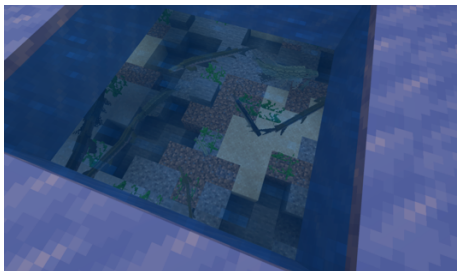
Do:

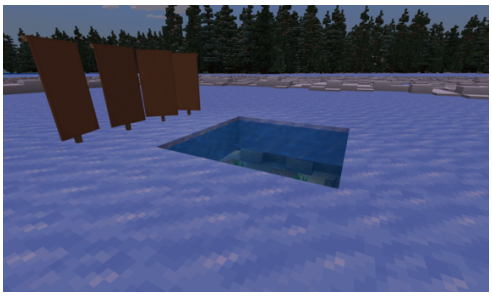
- ✓ Visit, tour, and photograph a wigwam for use in your book and quill journal.
- ✓ Learn from a community member about the various fish species in the Bloodvein River System.
- ✓ Learn about and employ the skills involved with safe and effective ice fishing practices.
- ✓ Find and photograph the pictograph along the shoreline.
- ✓ Break a 3x3 (or larger) hole in the ice for your fishing experience.
- ✓ Place wind and sun screening banners to block excess light and wind. Look at where the sun sits.
- ✓ Photograph any fish that you can locate for your book and quill journal before fishing.
- ✓ Tidy up your fishing location and photograph your cleaned space before returning with your catch to the community by dog sled. Then care for your sled dogs.
- ✓ Contribute your catch to the community through the support of Emily Skye's "Contribute" button.
- ✓ Use Emily Skye's "Activity 3" button to begin the sustainable hunting experience.

Helpful tips:

- Safety is paramount when ice fishing. Pay close attention when community members share how to locate a safe and ideal ice fishing location.
- Wigwams are semi-portable structures which means your "home" can be relocated.
- Examine every aspect of the wigwam and how it is used on the interior.
- The wigwam's central fire serves many purposes. Cooking, heating, and even providing light.
- Become familiar with the different fish species and try to identify them before they are caught.
- Sustainable hunting and fishing call for you to leave only footprints after a successful fishing expedition.













Activity 3: Sustainable Hunting

Adventure Mode; single player

Student Objectives:

In this activity you will participate in a moose hunt as a guest of the Anishinaabeg community living on Turtle Island. Activity 3 will lead you through the practice of sustainable big-game hunting and the maximizing of your harvest with teachings from the Knowledge Keepers and Stewards of the Land. Successfully track, spot, and bring down a bull moose near your community. Honor the sacrifice made by the bull moose after the hunt and harvest all assets the moose has to offer before returning to camp with your bounty. Learn about the use of drying racks and the tools that can be crafted using your harvest.

Content Warning: This activity involves taking the life of an animal and may be a sensitive topic and action. If at any time during this experience, you do not feel comfortable with an action or task, you have the right to alter the activity in any way necessary. Remember, the animals' sacrifice is essential for the survival of the community and is not taken lightly. All sacrifices should be respected and honoured.

Visit the Knowledge Keepers for teachings on the following:

- Preparing for the Hunt – William "Banjo" Young
- Tracking a Moose – Kenny Benson

- ❖ Honoring the Moose After the Hunt – William "Banjo" Young
- ❖ Sustainability in Hunting - William "Banjo" Young

Plan

- Your Minecraft inventory will include bow and arrow, dog sled, food, axe, camera, book and quill. Use the camera and a journal to document your findings as you hunt.

Do:

- ✓ Learn about the history of hunting, the animal you are hunting, and your tools.
- ✓ Practice using your hunting tools.
- ✓ Track the moose using prints and broken branches among other signs. Photograph the evidence for your book and quill journal.
- ✓ Photograph and use landmarks such as pictographs to find your way.
- ✓ Bring down the large game.
- ✓ Honor the fallen moose. Photograph your tribute.
- ✓ Sustainably harvest the moose.
- ✓ Return to your community via dog sled with your bounty.

Helpful tips:

- Big-game hunting can be far more dangerous compared to trapping smaller game.
- Keep your distance from the bull moose and use your hunting tools to strike from a distance.
- Pictographs along the river show the lengthy history of big-game hunting and the importance for the community.
- Female and male moose have different offerings made to honor their sacrifice after the hunt.
- Processing the moose at the site of the hunt allows for easier transport of the harvest to the community via dog sled.
- Remember to locate landmarks as you travel so that you can find your way back to the community.

