

# ATIKW KA WI NAMESIWIT

## THE CARIBOU WHO WANTED TO BECOME A FISH



The frightening  
threat of  
newcomers



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The Great Manitou  
helps Atiko



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### Lessons from the story:

- Establishing indigenous governance and the talking circle: Circularity is central to indigenous thought. This concept of cyclical life defines all “spheres” of existence. Adopting decision-making practices inspired by circularity, as demonstrated with the bird’s talking circle in the story, creates circumstances where everyone feels welcomed and valued, thereby fostering cooperation and mutual understanding. These teachings, based on the observation of the cyclical nature of the universe, are part of the various knowledge transmitted orally by Elders over time. Accordingly, the four quadrants of the medicine wheel symbolize the cardinal points, the natural elements, the seasons and the stages of life, hence illustrating the continuity of the cycle of life. This circular world view illustrates the interconnection between an individual and the various facets of one’s environment: culture, various facets of one’s environment: culture, family, nature, community...
- This tale explains the etymology of the word Atikamekw: “In the Atikamekw language, we say atikw for “caribou” and namekw for “fish”. If we merge these two words, the word Atikamekw is formed, which in English translates to “whitefish”, related to the salmon family.”
- The tale also explains the origins of various caribou herds such as the woodland caribou and the barren-ground caribou. In the story, one group of caribou heads north and the other remains in the forest.
- Spiritual foundations and the Great Manitou: to be explored with a knowledge-bearer.

### Comprehension question:

- What characteristics of human beings are listed in the story?
- What characteristic is attributed to each animal in the story?
  - What names are given to the Creator?

The lessons are inspired by: La Boîte Rouge VIF. 2023. Encounters with the First Peoples.

Available at <https://3peq.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/A-la-rencontre-des-premiers-peuples.pdf>

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Kokwaskeritcike  
win ka ocki  
petakoconitcik

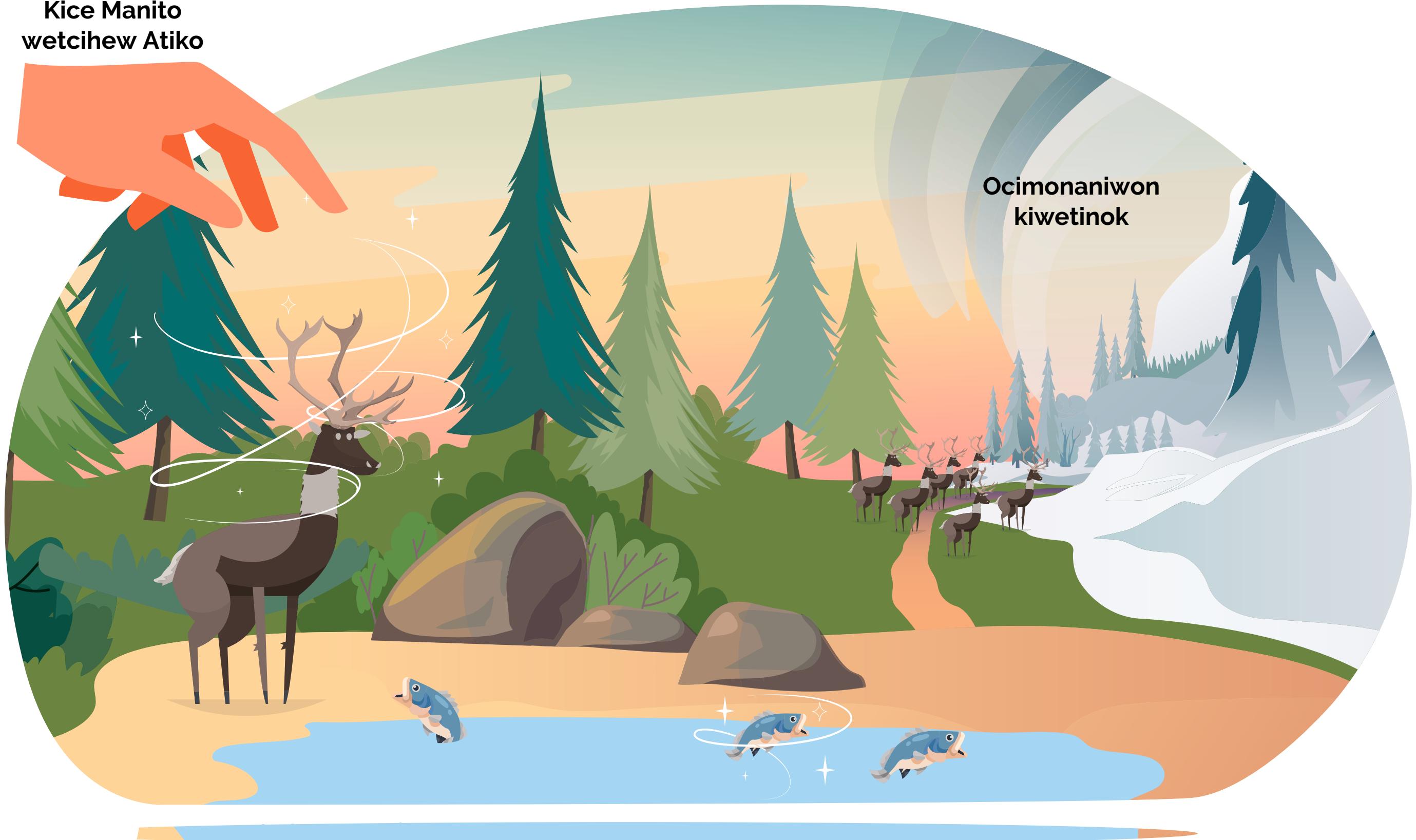


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Kice Manito  
wetcihew Atiko

Ocimonaniwon  
kiwetinok



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### **Kiskeritamotariwewina :**

- Nehirowi otiperitamowin kaie waskapiwin: waskapitamawin tetawictew nehirowi mamitoneritamowinak. Waskamitaneritamowin pimatisitaw waskapimatisiwin pimatisiwiniak. E pimatisiwakaniwok oreritamowinik, mitiwi atisokanik pirecicak e ki waskapitcik, matci wectamakan papeikw awik otci iterimot ni mirokakon kaie nit icperitakowin, nikaneritakoniwon kaie wawetcihitowin kaie kiskerimitowin. Kiskerinoriwewina, e ki piskapatamotcikatek notcimi waskapimatisiwinik, aci weckatc apatcitawok kice iriniwok e pimatisiwakewotcik nakwi kiskinorowewinak. Anehwe ka newoctek IIII itekewakaniwon new rotinok, ka pimatisimakak askik, aistaiak kaie irini pimatisiwina, acitc asperimowatisiwakaniwon waska nipimatisiwinak. Anaweh e ici waska mamotineritcikatek nte ici tapitin ininik kaie aski itirosowin, wetcicanesiwin, notcimik kaie otenonesiwin, mia tarasak e waskapatamaniwok pimatisiwinak.
- Anaweh atisokan wawtcikatew kekwan naweh itewin Atikamekw: «nehirowi arimwewin atikamekw itekera, itoniwon atikw e icinikataniwit «caribou» kaie namekw e icinikataniwit weckatc names «poisson». Kecpin e nicoctetaniwok aneweh nicw itewina, icictew atikamekw, e itoniwok emitikocimowinaniwok «corégone» (korekon), Atikamekw witcicanesiwok ocacamekw.
- Anaweh atisokan kirika witcikatew tante otcitcik e nakwi peikoranimikisitcik atikok : Notcimiw atikw kaie wapan atikw, neta atisokanik, atikok ki matcawok itekera kiwetinok kaie kotakihik notcimik ki tacikewok.
- Kitci tapweritamowin kaie Kice Manito: kata kanawapatcikatew mamo awik ka kitci kakitaweritak kiskinorowewina.

### **Kokwetcikemo nantokiskeritamowin :**

- Kekwanihi ka wawtcikaterik e ici kiskeritakosit iriniw nete atisokanik?
  - Tante e ici iteritakositcik papeikw awesisak neta atisokanik?
  - Mitcetwaw witcikatew icinikasot ka ki wectat askiriw, kekwanihi?