

VOCABULARY

Proverbs and Sayings from Indigenous Peoples

Here there is a list of proverbs and sayings from different Indigenous People all over the world: Australian Aborigines, Maoris from New Zealand, Massai from Africa, Incas and Mapuches from South America, Native Indians and Eskimos from North America.

1. Read them and try to match each proverb with its most suitable translation in your language. Then, have a guess to which people they belong to:

INDIGENOUS PROVERBS AND SAYINGS

1. *Beware of the man who says he can see the truth of your life clearly. His eyes cannot see the heart of your heart for all the light of the Sun*
2. *Do not steal, do not lie, and don't be lazy.*
3. *If you wish your merit to be known, acknowledge that of other people.*
4. *May all happen to you as the happiness of a dream, and so it will.*
5. *May you have warmth in your igloo, oil in your lamp, and peace in your heart*
6. *Since life is so short, when shall we meet each other again?*
7. *Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may not remember, involve me and I'll understand.*
8. *The elephant does not get tired of its tusks.*
9. *The land is a mother that never dies.*
10. *Those who lose dreaming are lost.*
11. *Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.*
12. *We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love... and then we return home.*
13. *When the last tree has been cut down, the last river has been polluted and the last fish has been caught -- only then do you realize that money can't buy everything.*
14. *You cannot tickle a hungry person.*

PROVERBIOS E DITOS DE POBOS INDÍXENAS

- a. A terra é a nai que nunca morre.
- b. A un famento non lle podes facer cóxegas.
- c. Aqueles que perden os sonhos, están perdidos.
- d. Cando corten a derradeira árbore, contaminen o derradeiro río e collan o derradeiro peixe, só entón te darás conta de que o diñeiro non pode mercalo todo.
- e. Cóidate do home que di coñecer con claridade a verdade da túa vida. Os seus ollos non poden ver o centro do teu corazón por culpa da luz do sol.
- f. Cóntamo e esquecereino, móstramo e pode que non o lembre, implícame e entendereino.
- g. Nin roubes, nin mintas, nin sexas preguiceiro.
- h. O elefante non se cansa dos seus colmillos.
- i. Oxalá teñas calor no teu iglú, aceite na túa lámpada e paz no teu corazón.

- j. Se desexas que se coñezan os teus méritos, recoñece os méritos dos outros.
- k. Todos somos visitantes deste tempo, deste lugar. Só estamos de paso. O noso obxectivo esquí é observar, aprender, medrar, amar... é despois regresamos ao fogar.
- l. Dálle a cara ao sol e terás as sombras ás costas.
- m. Xa que o tempo que vivimos é tan curto, non teríamos que volver a vernos?
- n. Que todo te suceda como a felicidade dun sono.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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2. Can you guess which Indigenous People the proverbs belong to? There are two proverbs for each people. Choose from the box

<i>Australian Aborigines</i>	<i>New Zealander Maoris</i>	<i>American Native Indians</i>
<i>African Massai</i>	<i>Peruvian Incas</i>	<i>Chilean Mapuches</i>
		<i>Canadian Eskimos</i>

1. *Beware of the man who says he can see the truth of your life clearly. His eyes cannot see the heart of your heart for all the light of the Sun*
2. *Do not steal, do not lie, and don't be lazy.*
3. *If you wish your merit to be known, acknowledge that of other people.*
4. *May all happen to you as the happiness of a dream, and so it will.*
5. *May you have warmth in your igloo, oil in your lamp, and peace in your heart*
6. *Since time is so short, shouldn't we meet each other again?*
7. *Tell me and I'll forget, show me and I may not remember, involve me and I'll understand.*
8. *The elephant does not get tired of its tusks.*
9. *The land is a mother that never dies.*
10. *Those who lose dreaming are lost.*
11. *Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you.*
12. *We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love... and then we return home*
13. *When the last tree has been cut down, the last river has been polluted and the last fish has been caught -- only then do you realize that money can't buy everything*
14. *You cannot tickle a hungry person.*

3. Try to match the beginnings and endings of the proverbs without looking at them.

beginnings	endings
<i>Do not steal, do not lie, and</i>	<i>...when shall we meet each other again?</i>
<i>If you wish your merit to be known, ...</i>	<i>...a hungry person.</i>
<i>May all happen to you and ...</i>	<i>...acknowledge that of other people.</i>
<i>Since life is so short, ...</i>	<i>...are lost.</i>
<i>The elephant does not get ...</i>	<i>...as the happiness of a dream,</i>
<i>The land is a mother ...</i>	<i>...don't be lazy.</i>
<i>Those who lose dreaming ...</i>	<i>...that never dies.</i>
<i>Turn your face to the sun and ...</i>	<i>...the shadows fall behind you.</i>
<i>You cannot tickle</i>	<i>...tired of its tusks.</i>



SOME COMMON PROVERBS

4. Aquí tes un listado de proverbios e ditos de uso frecuente nas nosas linguas. Serías capaz de averiguar a qué proverbio galego equivalen os ingleses que aparecen a continuación:

ENGLISH PROVERBS	GALICIAN PROVERBS
1. <i>A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.</i>	a. A bo entendedor, poucas palabras abundan.
2. <i>A stitch in time saves nine.</i>	b. A experiencia é a nai da ciencia.
3. <i>A word is enough to the wise.</i>	c. A quen madruga, Deus o axuda.
4. <i>All cats are grey in the dark.</i>	d. Ao feito, peito.
5. <i>All roads lead to Rome.</i>	e. Demasiados cociñeiros estragan o caldo.
6. <i>All that glitters is not gold.</i>	f. Deus os dá e eles se xuntan.
7. <i>An apple a day keeps the doctor away.</i>	g. Máis vale paxaro en man que cento voando.
8. <i>Better late than never.</i>	h. Máis vale previr que curar.
9. <i>Birds of a feather flock together.</i>	i. Máis vale previr que curar.
10. <i>Experience is the mother of knowledge.</i>	j. Máis vale tarde que nunca.
11. <i>It's no good crying over spilt milk.</i>	k. Nin ouro é todo canto se ve.
12. <i>The early bird catches the worm.</i>	l. Pola noite todos os gatos son pardos.
13. <i>Too many cooks spoil the broth.</i>	m. Querer e poder
14. <i>When there's a will, there's a way.</i>	Todos os camiños levan a Roma.

ANSWERS:

1.

1 e	2 g	3 j	4 n	5 i	6 m	7 f	8 h	9 a	10 c	11 l	12 k	13 d	14 b
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2.

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL: 10, 12
ESKIMOS: 3, 5
INCAS: 1, 2
MAORI: 9, 11
MAPUCHES: 4, 6
MASSAI: 8, 14
NATIVE AMERICAN: 7, 13

3. Mira os proverbios do exercicio 1 e comproba as respostas.

4.

- a. Máis vale paxaro en man que cento voando.
- b. Máis vale previr que curar.
- c. A bo entendedor, poucas palabras abundan.
- d. Pola noite todos os gatos son pardos.
- e. Todos os camiños conducen Roma.
- f. Nin ouro é todo canto se ve.
- g. Máis vale previr que curar.
- h. Máis vale tarde que nunca.
- i. Deus os dá e eles se xuntan.
- j. A experiencia é a nai da ciencia.
- k. Ao feito, peito.
- l. A quen madruga, Deus o axuda.
- m. Demasiados cociñeiros estragan o caldo.
- n. Querer é poder.

ACTIVITIES ON NARRATIVE STRUCTURES

❖ NARRATIVE TENSES:

A. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect Simple

1. They (GET) _____ to the airport as the plane was landing.
2. At the party Mary (WEAR) _____ the dress she (BUY) _____ the previous day.
3. What _____ they (SAY) _____ when you (INVITE) _____ them to your party?
4. By the time we (ARRIVE) _____ at the cinema, the film (START) _____ already _____
5. When you phoned, I (READ) _____ and my mum (WATCH) _____ the news on TV

B. Complete this story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets:

Two days ago, I (have) _____ a curious experience. It (BE) _____ really late at night and I (WALK) _____ home. There (BE) _____ not many people so I (BE) _____ a bit scared. After I (PASS) _____ a few streets, I (HEAR) _____ a person behind me. At first, I (NOT/ KNOW) _____ who it was, but then I (REALIZE) _____ it (BE) _____ my friend John who (TRY) _____ to scare me.

❖ TIME AND SEQUENCE:

A. Complete the sentences with the right conector. Choose from the box and use each expression once.

By the time	when	while	then	at the end
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1. _____ we reached our destination, we were really happy..
2. _____ I was staying in Canada, I met some interesting people.
3. _____ I first met Mary, she was 13 years old.
4. We left the theatre and _____ it started to rain
5. It was a great party. _____, we sang a song together.



B. Complete the passage with the connectors of sequence you have in the box:

finally	then	first	in the end	a few hours later
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We almost missed our plane to New Zealand. _____ we couldn't find our passports. _____, the taxi we had called didn't come. We _____ called another taxi. _____ we got to the airport and _____ we caught the plane.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

A:

1. *got*
2. *was wearing / had bought*
3. *did they say / invited*
4. *arrived / had already started*
5. *was reading / was watching*

B. :

Had / was / was walking / were / was / had passed / heard / didn't know / realized / was / was trying.

❖ **TIME AND SEQUENCE:**

C.

1. *By the time / When*
2. *While / By the time*
3. *When / By the time*
4. *Then*
5. *At the end.*

D.

First / Then / in the end (finally) / A few hours later / Finally (in the end)

LISTENING TO A TV PROGRAMME

Indigenous people descend on NYC

Vas escoitar e ver un video que trata sobre os pobos indígenas.

A. Escoita e mira o programa unha ou dúas veces e trata de contestar a estas preguntas de tipo xeral sobre o texto.

1. *What type of tv programme is it?*
2. *How many people talk in the programme?*
3. *Who are they?*
4. *Where are these people staying?*
5. *What do you think they are doing there?*

B. Escoita de novo o programa e elixe a resposta que consideres correcta

1. *How many indigenous people gather at this annual meeting?*
☐ *two hundred*
☐ *two hundred thousand*
☐ *two thousand*
2. *The first indigenous woman to talk says they are living in:*
☐ *Wonderful conditions*
☐ *Deplorable conditions*
☐ *Terrible conditions*
3. *What did Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US do?*
☐ *They voted YES to the declaration of Indigenous rights*
☐ *They voted NO to the declaration of Indigenous rights*
☐ *They didn't vote the declaration of Indigenous rights*
4. *Which of the countries mentioned above is changing its policy towards Indigenous*

people's rights.

- ☐ *Canada*
- ☐ *USA*
- ☐ *Australia*

5. *At the end of the programme another Indigenous woman complains about:*

- ☐ *Foreign mining companies exploiting their land*
- ☐ *Foreign car companies selling their land*
- ☐ *Foreign companies respecting their land*

C. Food for thought: do you think that for *Indigenous People* the road to equality is a long one, as the presenter of the programme points out at the end?

D. Listen again and try to check your answers. In the next page you have got possible answers together with the whole script. Remember there is no need to understand everything, but be able to get general information about what you are listening to.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS

A.

1. *A news programme*
2. *4 people*
3. *The presenter, 2 Indigenous women and a member of the new Australian government.*
4. *At the United Nations in New York*
5. *They are talking about their problems*

B.

1. two thousand
2. Deplorable conditions
3. They voted NO to the declaration of Indigenous rights
4. Australia
5. Foreign mining companies exploiting their land

C. Food for thought:

I think so, since Industrial first world countries are not interested in giving the same rights to them, although they have been the owners of the land we are exploiting.

SCRIPT

Indigenous people descend on NYC

Women of the Siksika and Nipissing nations crossed first avenue in New York. Descendants of the first people who ever lived in Canada's remote lands; they're here to fight for their rights. The United Nations has become a riot of colour, as two thousand Indigenous people gather here for their annual meeting which begins with a song honouring the spirit of women.

If the rights of the Indigenous peoples in the world were respected, we wouldn't be living in deplorable conditions and we wouldn't be here lobbying so strongly for changes.

Indigenous people are here to make sure an historic UN declaration of their rights isn't being ignored. They called for tribal people to be given more control over their land, and to be paid compensation for lost territory.

When the UN general assembly voted to adopt the declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples there were only 4 NO votes; Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the US. All countries with large numbers of native peoples worried about giving them more rights. But now the mood is changing.

Australia's new government has decided to support the non binding declaration.

It's more an aspirational statement that outlines the principals and aspirations of Indigenous people and governments who express their support are committing to work alongside of their Indigenous peoples to achieve the broad ambitions of the declaration.

Turning broad ambitions into action isn't easy. Over coffee delegates discuss how to get mining companies to pay them for the minerals being extracted from their traditional lands.

In my country we have a mining act of 1995 which allows foreign mining companies to come and have 100% equity over the corporation and they are now exploiting our resources and they are now grossly violating the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Gradually the world's governments are apologising to these ancient communities for the way they've been treated in the past. For Indigenous people the road to equality is a long one.

Laura Trevelyan, BBC News at the United Nations in New York.

Topic: INDIGENOUS CULTURES

READING COMPREHENSION: An Aboriginal Story

Read carefully this Aboriginal legend. While you read it, you can also listen and view images which may help you understand the story better. Then, do the vocabulary and comprehension tasks that follow.

This is a story about two men who lived on the shores of Lake Alexandrina. They belonged to the *Ngarrindjerri* people.

The two men set off in their bark canoe to go fishing on the lake. They travelled along on the calm, cool waters until they came to their favourite fishing place, called Loveday Bay, where they always caught the best and most delicious bream fish. In their language, this fish is called *Thukeri*.

They found a good sheltered spot among some high reeds. They had made their own fishing lines, called *nungi*, from cords they had made from the reeds. They used very sharp bird bones for hooks.

They knew the women were collecting vegetable plants to eat with the fish.

As the day went on the two men sat there catching more and more fat, juicy *Thukeri*. They were having such a wonderful day catching so many fish and wanted to keep catching more and more, but the canoe was almost full and looked like it would sink.

As they paddled in closer to shore, they could see a stranger in the distance. He seemed to be walking straight towards them. The two men looked at each other; what if this stranger wanted some of their beautiful, juicy *Thukeri*?

They were greedy and decided not to share with the stranger. They decided to keep all the fat, lovely Silver Bream for themselves and quickly covered the fish up with their woven mats so that the stranger would not see them. When the stranger came up to the two men he said, *'Hello, brothers. I haven't eaten anything at all today. Could you spare me a couple of fish?'*

The two men looked at each other and at the mats hiding the *Thukeri*. They turned to the stranger and one of them said, *'I'm sorry, friend, but we caught only a few fish today and we have to take them home for our wives and children and the old people, because they are depending on us. So, you see, we can't give you any.'*

The stranger stood there for a long while and then started to walk away. He stopped, turned around and stared at them. *'You lied,'* he said. *'I know that you have plenty of fish in your canoe. Because you are so greedy, you will never be able to enjoy those Thukeri ever again.'*

The two men stood there, puzzled, as the stranger walked away into the sunset. They shrugged their shoulders, then quickly took off the mats and began to gut the fish. But as they did this, they found that these beautiful silver *Thukeri* were so full of sharp, thin bones that they couldn't eat them.

'What are we going to do? We can't take these home to our families, they'll choke on them.' So the two men had to return home in shame with only the bony fish. When they got home, they told their families what had happened. The old people told them that the stranger was really the Great Spirit

called Ngurunderi. Now all the Ngarrindjeri people would be punished for ever, because the two men were so greedy.

And so today, whenever people catch a bony bream, they are reminded of long ago, when Ngurunderi taught them a lesson

Taken from www.australianmuseum.net.au

GLOSSARY:

On the shores: nas marxes

Set off: saír

Bark: cortiza

Bream fish: brema

Sheltered spot: lugar protexido

Reed: xunco, caña

Fishing line: sedal, fío de pescar

Bird bones: osos de paxaros

Hooks: anzol, garfo

Cord: corda

Sink: fundirse

Greedy: cobizoso

Paddle: palar / remar

Woven mat: esteira tecida

Share: compartir

Stare: mirar fixamente

Shrug one's shoulders: encollerse de ombros

Gut the fish: limpar o peixe, destripalo

Bones: espiñas

Choke on stg: atragantarse con algo

In shame: con vergoña

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. Suggest a title for the story and explain your choice

2. Put the sentences below in the right order according to the text.

- a) *They caught lots of fish*
- b) *They gutted the fish*
- c) *They hid the fish under a mat*
- d) *They lied to the stranger*
- e) *They paddled to the shore*
- f) *They saw a stranger*
- g) *They told their families what had happened*
- h) *They were punished*
- i) *Two men decided to go fishing*

3. Answer the following questions in your own words.

- a) *Why did the two men go fishing to Loveday Bay?*
- b) *What did they use for fishing?*
- c) *Was their fishing satisfactory? Reason your answer*
- d) *Did they know the person who was coming towards them from the distance?*
- e) *What were they like? Explain your answer*
- f) *Why did the stranger come towards them?*
- g) *Where did they keep the fish? Why?*
- h) *Did the stranger believe the two men?*
- i) *Why couldn't they eat the fish?*
- j) *After they had told their people what had happened, what did the old people tell them?*
- k) *What is the lesson the Great Spirit showed the Ngarrindjeri people?*

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

1.

A possible title for this story could be **The consequences of being greedy**, because this legend tells what happened to two Aboriginal sailors and their people after they hadn't shared part of their fishing with a hungry man who happened to be the Great Spirit.

2.

Two men decided to go fishing
They caught lots of fish
They paddled to the shore
They saw a stranger
They hid the fish under a mat
They lied to the stranger
They gutted the fish
They told their families what had happened
They were punished

3.

- a) They went fishing to this Bay because they liked it very much and it was always full of fish
- b) They used branches from the reeds and bones from the birds to make their fishing lines and hooks respectively.
- c) Yes, their fishing was great because they caught so many fish the canoe was completely full.
- d) No, they didn't know who that person was. He was a stranger to them.
- e) They were not generous at all, so they didn't give any fish to the hungry man.
- f) The stranger came towards them because he was very hungry and wanted to ask for some food to the two sailors.
- g) They kept their fish under the mats, so the stranger couldn't see the amount of fish they had caught.
- h) No, he didn't believe them at all. He knew the two men had caught lots of fish.
- i) The two men couldn't eat the fish because when they were cleaning them, they realized they were full of sharp, thin bones which made the fish difficult to swallow
- j) The old people told them who the stranger actually was and what was going to happen to them and their people for the rest of their existence.
- k) The Great Spirit showed them that they had to be generous and share everything with others, especially with those in need.