

Wapos Bay THE HUNT episode 13

Episode Description

Kohkum Mary and the older generation are playing cards, and they ask her to tell the story of when she met Al Capone in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Then Kohkum Mary receives a phone call informing her that she is nominated for an Aboriginal Accomplishment award. The elders immediately begin planning for a celebratory feast and that means a hunting trip. Mushom, Peter, Alphonse, Jacob, Talon and T-Bear leave for the hunting trip and Mushom gets a flat tire. T-Bear expresses his distaste for having to do the hard work while Talon gets to look for an eagle feather. The group splits up and T-Bear spots some moose tracks. Jacob leaves to investigate, leaving T-Bear with the ATV when old Gabriel shows up with a sad story. T-Bear feels sorry for him and tells him about the moose tracks. When the group re-unites, they realize too late they have to intervene. The tracks belong to a mother cow and old Gabriel with his poor eyesight has nicked her. The game warden supplies them with tranquilizers and T-Bear has to shoot the moose because he's the best shot. T-Bear realizes that Mushom is carefully developing each of their talents. The cow and her calf are taken to a game preserve until she's well enough to be released. Kohkum Mary's acceptance of her award is humorous and entertaining.

Background Information

Grandparents and parents observe their children to determine their special gifts and then create opportunities to nurture them. Tracking animals involves keen observation and knowledge of the land and animal life. The use of firearms involves keen eyesight, knowledge of how projectiles move through space and steady nerves.

Contemporary Aboriginal communities hold annual awards ceremonies to honour those members who make notable contributions in education, economic development, sport, music, arts and lifetime achievement.



Key themes

- Hunting involves ethical practices such as not killing moose cows caring for young ones. This will ensure that there will continue to be game.
- The study of the mechanics of projectiles such as bullets is called ballistics. Aboriginal hunters apply a similar type of knowledge in their hunting practices.
- Awards shows are a prominent feature of popular culture, and Aboriginal peoples in Canada also understand the importance for honouring the achievements of successful individuals.

PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What ethical principles are involved in hunting moose, deer and caribou? Why is it important to follow these?
- 2 ► What knowledge and skills are needed for hunting moose, deer or caribou?
- 3 ► What gifts do you admire in others? What gifts do you wish you had? Have your parents or grandparents recognized your gifts? How? (Gifts are understood to mean a special talent, skill or ability.)
- 4 ► How should we honour members of our communities who make notable contributions in education, economic development, sport, music, arts and lifetime achievement?
- 5 ► Introduce the Cree words used in episode 13, and ask students to listen for them while watching the film.

CREE GLOSSARY

kohkum – grandmother

mushom – grandfather

akosi – That's all

tapway – That's true

astum – Come here

- 6 ► Why are there so many award events on television?

VIEW THE EPISODE

Introduce and view *Wapos Bay: The Hunt*.

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What ethical practices did the hunters from Wapos Bay follow? Why is it important to follow these practices?
- 2 ► What gifts do Mushom, Kohkum, Alphonse, Jacob, Talon, T-Bear and Raven possess?
- 3 ► Review the Cree glossary.
- 4 ► What scientific knowledge did the hunters use on their hunting trip?
- 5 ► How did you feel when Kohkum Mary accepted her award? How do award shows make us feel? What is the function of such an event?

PROJECT IDEAS



- Conduct a survey of the types of awards shows on TV.
What is the most common type of award?
What talents are not awarded?
How do they reveal what the society values?
- Invite an elder to explain the significance of receiving an eagle feather.
- Review the categories for a National Aboriginal Achievement Award. They can be found at www.naaf.ca. Review the criteria for receiving an award. Review previous recipients of National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Choose one recipient to research. Write about their achievements and present it to the class.