

# Wapos Bay

## GOING FOR THE GOLD episode 15

### Episode Description

Talon has a dream that exhorts him to bring “gold” to Wapos Bay. Talon eventually understands that this means he must compete in the North American Indigenous Games, but Talon doesn’t even know what his sport is. The recurring dream helps him to realize that the sport he should compete in is golf, but not before family members help out with unorthodox training methods. Uncle Jacob has plenty of experience with golf since he is on the Wapos Bay Band Council. He is the source of much humour in this episode, but he also devotes significant time to training Talon. Uncle Jacob insists that Talon use the original Scottish terms and not the “colonized” names for the clubs. With all of the excitement of the impending golf competition, Jacob forgets T-Bear’s birthday. Talon reassures T-Bear and he proves to be “golden” with his cousin as well as in golf.

### Background information

The success of an individual is accomplished with the support of friends and family. Aboriginal peoples view the cultivation of gifts and talents as a responsibility of the individual to the group. Grandparents, aunts and uncles often take on a mentoring role when they possess similar gifts and talents as a youth.

Dreams are a source of knowledge for many Aboriginal peoples. Physical and athletic abilities for Indigenous peoples are connected to the traditional skills needed to provide for, sustain and nurture families and communities.

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) are held every three years in various communities. Teams of competitors represent Canadian provinces, American states and Indigenous nations. The events include archery, badminton, basketball, baseball, boxing, canoeing, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, Tae Kwon Do, track and field, cross-country running, volleyball and wrestling. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded for each sport. The games are managed by the North American Sports Council, Inc.

Approximately 10,000 athletes attended the 2008 NAIG, where Indigenous athletes from Canadian provinces, territories, American states and Indigenous nations compete in a wide range of sport categories for points. The group with the most points wins.

Setting small and big goals as well as training is an important aspect of sport competition and living out your dreams.



### Key themes

- Fulfilling a dream involves the support of family and community.

## PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What languages are spoken in your family, in your community?
- 2 ► Are you a speaker of the Cree language?
- 3 ► What words do you know in Cree?
- 4 ► Introduce the Cree language glossary words used in the Wapos Bay episode 15 entitled, **“Going for the Gold.”** Ask students to listen out for these words when the time comes to view.

### CREE LANGUAGE GLOSSARY

**kohkum** – grandmother

**mushom** – grandfather

**Wapos** – Rabbit

**Tansi** – Hello

- 5 ► Do you have a gift or talent? What is it? Have the members of your family recognized it? What kinds of things do others do to support its development? What are the responsibilities that are connected to it?
- 6 ► Do you recall your dreams? Do you share them with others? Do you know of the practice of sharing dreams of a spiritual nature with elders?
- 7 ► What are the major sporting events for athletes in Canada? What are the major sporting events for Indigenous athletes in Canada? Have you been to the North American Indigenous Games? What events are included in the North American Indigenous games? What events have you competed in? How did you train? Does training involve just physical training? How do athletes prepare mentally and emotionally?
- 8 ► How are Olympic teams scored when they compete?

### VIEW EPISODE

Introduce and View “*Going for the Gold*”

### POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► Review the Cree glossary words. How do you say \_\_\_\_\_?  
Grandmother  
grandfather  
rabbit  
hello
- 2 ► Discuss: What was Talon’s gift? How did he find out what it was? What kinds of things did his family and friends do to support the development of his gift? What kinds of responsibilities are connected to Talon’s gift?
- 3 ► Discuss: What was Talon’s dream? What advice did Talon get when he shared them with others?
- 4 ► Discuss: What does it mean to Talon to compete in the North American Indigenous games? What does it mean for Indigenous athletes to compete against other Indigenous athletes? Why is this important?



## PROJECT IDEAS

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- Visit the 2011 North American Indigenous Games website: [milwaukee2011.com](http://milwaukee2011.com)
- Find out which teams have been most successful. Which events are the most competitive? What is the history of the North American Indigenous Games? Which events have the longest history with Indigenous peoples of North America?
- Compare the way that Olympic teams are scored with the way that the North American Indigenous Games are scored. What are the differences? What are the similarities?
- Choose several events that are held at the North American Indigenous Games that have a long history with Indigenous peoples in North America; test athletic abilities and overall skills needed for these historical events. Research biographical information for Indigenous athletes, what do they focus on as part of their training besides the physical aspects?
- Visit the 2010 Olympic websites to download lessons about Aboriginal Olympians:  
[vancouver2010.com/edu](http://vancouver2010.com/edu)  
[olympicschool.ca/default.aspx?PageID=1045&LangID=en](http://olympicschool.ca/default.aspx?PageID=1045&LangID=en)
- See the following website for lesson activities associated with the 2008 Indigenous Games held in the Cowichan Valley near Duncan, British Columbia:  
[sd79.bc.ca/programs/abed/ACIP/indexfiles/acip\\_intropage.html](http://sd79.bc.ca/programs/abed/ACIP/indexfiles/acip_intropage.html)