

Montana Small Schools Alliance  
**HONORING MONTANA'S FIRST PEOPLES**

**UNIT:** Gros Ventre Language

**AUTHOR:** Traci Manseau

**SCHOOL AND COUNTY:** Deerfield Colony School in Fergus County

**GRADE LEVEL:** K-4

**INDIAN RESERVATION REFERENCED:** Fort Belknap

**SUBJECT AREAS:** Reading, Language

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:** The Gros Ventre language is a fading language. Like many other cultures, we must try to preserve our fading languages.

This lesson will take 4-5 days depending on how much time they will need to complete their calendars.

**CONTENT STANDARDS ADDRESSED:**

Reading Standard 4: Students interact with (select, read and respond to) print and nonprint material and literary works, from various cultures, ethnic groups, traditions and contemporary viewpoints written by both genders, for a variety of purposes. Benchmark 2.

World Languages Standard 4: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the perspectives, practices, and products/contributions of cultures studied, and use this knowledge to interact effectively in cultural contexts. Benchmark 1.

**ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT MONTANA INDIANS:**

Essential Understanding 3: The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs.

Additionally, each tribe has its own oral history beginning with their origins that are as valid as written histories. These histories pre-date the “discovery” of North America.

### Editor's Note:

These are a series of eleven short instructional units that integrate various subject area content standards and the Montana American Indian Essential Understanding 3. The different units can be used at different times throughout the year so that students will have several opportunities to learn to Honor Montana's First Peoples of the Fort Belknap and Flathead Reservations. It is suggested that the teacher use the Fort Belknap lessons first.

Before beginning these units, teachers should view the official website of the Fort Belknap Nations ([www.fortbelknapnations.nsn.gov](http://www.fortbelknapnations.nsn.gov)) and read the home pages of the histories of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Peoples. Also, teachers could review and use the three DVD's provided to all Montana school districts by the Indian Education for All Program at OPI. The three are *Long Ago in Montana*, *Talking without Words*, and *Tribes in Montana*. In addition, the author has provided some specific resources for these units.

### **SOURCES:**

Website: [www.geocities.com/aaninin/langugage.html](http://www.geocities.com/aaninin/langugage.html)

How the Summer Season Came and Other Assiniboine Indian Stories. Helena, MT: Montana Historical Society Press, 2003.

### **BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE:**

The students will already have prior knowledge of the Gros Ventre Tribe and their culture. Students will understand that certain American Indian stories are only told at certain times of the year. The teacher will make sure that it is an appropriate time to tell story.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The students will demonstrate an understanding of a different language. Students will research the Gros Ventre language. Students may use the Internet, or if possible, contact a Fort Belknap tribal member for their research.

### **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

List of Gros Ventre words to be used in the classroom. (See attached sheets.)

### **CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES:**

The teacher will explain to the class that they will be learning a new language. Students will listen to a story- How the Summer Season Came. Students will make a calendar using the Gros Ventre language that they learned. Students will also write a story containing many different Gros Ventre words. Students will complete a matching page that contains the Gros Ventre words and English words.

Students will use the internet site of:

<http://fpcctalkindian.nativeweb.org/nalphabet.htm> to read through and listen to

the Assiniboine alphabet and numbers and also listen to and practice phrases from the website: <http://fpcctalkindian.nativeweb.org/nles1.htm>. Students will complete a matching page of the Assiniboine and English language.

**ASSESSMENT:**

The assessment will be the completion of the calendar and their story and making sure that the words are used correctly. The teacher will also make sure that the words were matched correctly on the matching page.

## Gros Ventre Language Page

Our language is fading from memory...our words need to live on. To give honor to our elders and ancestors legacy, here is their spoken word...

Red	-	<b>Ba Ah</b>
Blue	-	<b>Ga Na Da Ya</b>
Green	-	<b>E Wa Nuth Kia</b>
Black	-	<b>Wa Et Da Ya</b>
White	-	<b>Na Na Tza</b>
Brown	-	<b>Nee Ha Ya</b>
Yellow	-	<b>Nee Ha Ya</b>
Orange	-	<b>Nee Ha Ya</b>
Sunday	-	<b>Nees Sin</b>
Monday	-	<b>Ees Bi Dan Nees</b>
Tuesday	-	<b>Neeth Dac Een</b>
Wednesday	-	<b>Nath Dac Een</b>
Thursday	-	<b>Yan Dac Een</b>
Friday	-	<b>Tsa Hawk</b>
Saturday	-	<b>Bin Geet</b>
Horse	-	<b>E Wus Hath</b>
Dog	-	<b>Ut</b>
Cat	-	<b>Woos</b>
Cow	-	<b>Wa Gah</b>
Deer	-	<b>Be Eh He</b>
Colt	-	<b>Woh</b>
Bird	-	<b>Ni I He</b>
Antelope	-	<b>Naw Sic</b>
Beaver	-	<b>Ebiss</b>
Coyote	-	<b>Ga Ah Woo</b>
Elk	-	<b>E Wus He</b>
Bear	-	<b>Wus</b>
Eagle	-	<b>Ni Ha Na Ack</b>
Owl	-	<b>Bya Dah</b>
Hawk	-	<b>Wa Thay Na Tha</b>
Buffalo	-	<b>E Dan Non</b>

How do you say this?	-	<b>Ay Dos Si Nees Gya</b>
Can you help me?	-	<b>Ni Day Hee Bay Aah</b>
Where are you going?	-	<b>Doc Ay Ha?</b>
Who's listening?	-	<b>Aa Na Nee Da Bac</b>
Walk to the door.	-	<b>Gibe Thats De Gen Naw</b>
Open the door.	-	<b>Ga Na Da Na De Gen Haw</b>
Close the door.	-	<b>Ow Woo Naw De Gen Naw</b>
Close the book.	-	<b>Ow Woo Nah Ne Ya Tsa</b>
Walk quietly.	-	<b>Ga Ah Gibe Thats</b>
Go to bed.	-	<b>Won Ee Sa Bits</b>
Go to sleep.	-	<b>Na Coo</b>

Hello	-	<b>Wa Hey</b>
What is your name?	-	<b>Ada Si He?</b>
My name is...	-	<b>Ne Nah</b>
Good Morning	-	<b>Ne E Na Stake En</b>
It's good to see you..	-	<b>Ne E Nah Ha Ban</b>
I'm fine - I feel good	-	<b>Ni Een Ikee</b>
Where are you going?	-	<b>Dok Aa Ha</b>
Stand up	-	<b>Ga Hait</b>
Walk	-	<b>Gibe Thats</b>
Stop	-	<b>Doe Oh Thats</b>
Come here	-	<b>Nah Hay Tzots</b>
Go over there	-	<b>Eat E Hots</b>
Sit down	-	<b>Gia Nutz</b>
Listen	-	<b>K Ets Gits</b>
Give me	-	<b>Be Nay Ats</b>
Hurry	-	<b>Nun Ho</b>

- Website: [www.geocities.com/aaninin/langugage.html](http://www.geocities.com/aaninin/langugage.html)



# Vocabulary Words in Native American Languages: Assiniboine (Nakota)

Our vocabulary sets section is under construction. Though we hope to add a set of 100 common words for each language eventually, complete with phonetic lettering and possibly even audio, that will have to wait until we get a grant of some kind. For now, we have included ten words for each language: the numbers one through five and words for man, woman, sun, moon, and water. If you need to know a Assiniboine word that is not currently on our page, you can take part in our [Indian translations](#) fundraiser, buy a Assiniboine [CD-ROM](#), or visit our main [Assiniboine language](#) site for more free resources.

Thanks for your interest in Native American languages!

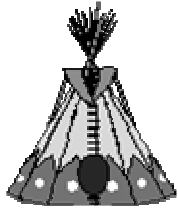
## Assiniboine Word Set

<u>English (Français)</u>	<u>Assiniboine</u>
One (Un)	Wazhi <sup>n</sup>
Two (Deux)	Nom
Three (Trois)	Yamni
Four (Quatre)	To <sup>n</sup> sa
Five (Cinq)	Th'apta
Man (Homme)	Wi <sup>n</sup> cha
Woman (Femme)	Wi <sup>n</sup> ya <sup>n</sup>
Sun (Soleil)	Wi
Moon (Lune)	Ha <sup>n</sup> hepiwi
Water (Eau)	Mini

Click here to see Assiniboine vocabulary words compared to words in related Siouan languages: [Siouan Indian Words](#)



[http://www.native-languages.org/assiniboine\\_words.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/assiniboine_words.htm)



► Nakona Alphabet

This lesson incorporates the Nakona alphabet.

You will need to download Windows [Media Player](#) to hear the spoken words, and sentences.



► [Nakona Lesson One](#)

► [Nakona Lesson Two](#)

► [Nakona Lesson Three](#)

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### The Assiniboine Alphabet

Nakona Alphabet:	Phonetic:	Meaning:
A - <a href="#">agan</a>	as in Tall	Upon
A - <a href="#">tanga</a>	nasal A, as in Long	Large
B - <a href="#">buza</a>	as in Bat	Cat
Ch - <a href="#">chande</a>	as in Chill	Heart
D - <a href="#">daya</a>	as in David	Good
E - <a href="#">en</a>	as in Ten	There
G - <a href="#">guwa</a>	as in Good	Come here!
G - <a href="#">gaga</a>	as in Gaga (to make)	To make
H - <a href="#">ha</a>	as in Ha	Yes
I - <a href="#">i</a>	as in Eat	Mouth
I - <a href="#">inya</a>	as in Teen	To go
J - <a href="#">jusina</a>	as in Joe	Small
K - <a href="#">kuwa</a>	as in Keep	To chase
? - <a href="#">ho?kwa</a>	as in Top_hat, Juke_box	expression
M - <a href="#">manga</a>	as in Montana	#
N - <a href="#">nowa</a>	as in Now	To sing
O - <a href="#">omna</a>	as in Okay	To smell
P - <a href="#">pa</a>	as in Pan	Head
S - <a href="#">siha</a>	as in Super	Feet
Sh - <a href="#">shage</a>	as in Shoe	Fingernails
T - <a href="#">tanga</a>	as in Toe	Big
U - <a href="#">guwa</a>	as in Cool	Come here!
U - <a href="#">un</a>	as in Moon	To come
W - <a href="#">waci</a>	as in What	Dance
X - <a href="#">xubahu</a>	as in Ach du Lieber, Loch Lomond	Wing
Y - <a href="#">yanga</a>	as in Yellow	To sit
Z - <a href="#">zi</a>	as in Zip	Brown
Zh - <a href="#">yuzhuzhu</a>	as in Leisure, Measure	#

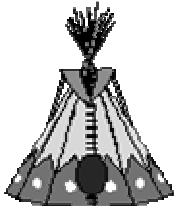
In the Assiniboine Language there are no F, L, R, nor V sounds. In the vowels, there are no Long A and Long I sounds. There is only one instance where the short U is used, and that is in the word, "Nu!" - which means Here!, or the act of giving.

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## Nakona Language Lesson 1 - Doken Ya U?



► Nakona Lesson One

► Doken Ya U?

This lesson incorporates Nakona phrases.

You will need to download Windows [Media Player](#) to hear the spoken words, and sentences.



► [Nakona Alphabet](#)

► [Nakona Lesson Two](#)

► [Nakona Lesson Three](#)

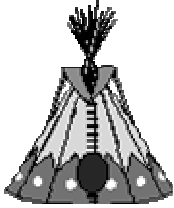
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Phrases	(Greeting)
English:	Nakona:
Come in!	<a href="#">Tin U!</a>
How are you?	<a href="#">Doken ya u?</a>
How are you?	<a href="#">Doken ya shka?</a>
I will shake your hand.	<a href="#">Nambe chimnuzinkt.</a>
Sit down.	<a href="#">Iyodanga!</a>
Sit down over here!	<a href="#">Nechi iyodanga!</a>
Sit down over there!	<a href="#">Zhechi iyodanga!</a>
What are you doing	<a href="#">Dagu doka nunga?</a>
Are you well?	<a href="#">Daya ya u?</a>
Do you want coffee?	<a href="#">Xuxnaxyabi yachinga?</a>
Do you want tea?	<a href="#">Waxbe yachinga?</a>
Eat!	<a href="#">Woda!</a>
Do you want anything?	<a href="#">Dagux yachinga?</a>
Do you have any money?	<a href="#">Maza ska nuha?</a>
Here! (act of giving)	<a href="#">Nu!</a>
Who are you?	<a href="#">Ni duwe?</a>



Phrases	(Responses)
English:	Nakona:
Yes	<a href="#">Ha</a>
No	<a href="#">Hiya</a>
I am fine.	<a href="#">Daya wa u.</a>
I am getting along okay.	<a href="#">Daya wa shka.</a>
I too will shake your hand.	<a href="#">Nish, nambe chimnuzinkt.</a>
I am not getting along well.	<a href="#">Daya wa ush.</a>
I am getting along badly.	<a href="#">Sija wa u.</a>
Thank you.	<a href="#">Pinamiya.</a>
Yes, I want coffee.	<a href="#">Ha, xuxnaxyabi wachinga.</a>
Yes, I want tea.	<a href="#">Ha, waxbe wachinga.</a>
Yes, I have money.	<a href="#">Ha, maza ska mnuha.</a>
I don't want.	<a href="#">Wachingesh.</a>
Give me.	<a href="#">Mak?u.</a>





► Nakona Lesson Three

► Washbayabi en

This lesson incorporates Nakona phrases.

You will need to download Windows [Media Player](#) to hear the spoken words, and sentences.



► [Nakona Alphabet](#)

► [Nakona Lesson One](#)

► [Nakona Lesson Two](#)

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### Nakona Language Lesson 3 - Washbayabi en - In the kitchen

Vocabulary	
English:	Nakona:
Chair	<a href="#">Cha agan</a>
Knife	<a href="#">Mina</a>
Fork	<a href="#">Inchape</a>
Spoon	<a href="#">Kishkana</a>
Pot	<a href="#">Chega</a>
Meat	<a href="#">Tano</a>
Fish	<a href="#">Hoga</a>
Cookies	<a href="#">Washuya</a>
Pepper	<a href="#">Champa susuna</a>
Baking Powder	<a href="#">Inadaboga</a>
Beans	<a href="#">Unk?shuk?shuna</a>
Cup	<a href="#">Iijuna</a>
Give me	<a href="#">Mak?u</a>
Raisins	<a href="#">Chintga</a>
Sillet	<a href="#">Chega</a>
Table	<a href="#">Awodabi</a>
Kettle	<a href="#">Chega</a>
Large spoon	<a href="#">Kishkana tanga</a>
Stove	<a href="#">Ocheti</a>
Pork	<a href="#">Gugusha</a>
Chicken	<a href="#">Amba u hotu</a>
Salt	<a href="#">Shtushtena</a>
Sugar	<a href="#">Chashmuyabi</a>
Flour	<a href="#">Aguwabi mnuna</a>
Rice	<a href="#">Psi</a>
Plate	<a href="#">Iyogap?de</a>
Fire	<a href="#">Peda</a>
To make	<a href="#">Gaga(v)</a>
Bowl	<a href="#">Iyogap?de Shokokba</a>

Sentences	
English:	Nakona:
I want (need) a spoon.	<a href="#"><u>Kishkana wachinga.</u></a>
Give me coffee.	<a href="#"><u>Xuxnaxyabi mak?u.</u></a>
I want (need) a fork.	<a href="#"><u>Inchape wachinga.</u></a>
Pass the steak.	<a href="#"><u>Tano mak?u.</u></a>
Pass the bread.	<a href="#"><u>Aguwabi mak?u.</u></a>
Pass the pepper.	<a href="#"><u>Champa susuna mak?u.</u></a>
I want the pepper.	<a href="#"><u>Champa susuna wachinga.</u></a>
Pass the beans.	<a href="#"><u>Unk?shuk?shuna mak?u.</u></a>
I need the soup spoon.	<a href="#"><u>Kishkana wachinga.</u></a>
Pass the sugar.	<a href="#"><u>Chashmuyabi mak?u.</u></a>

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