

Silence Respect Sharing Circle

Story Script



Once when the native peoples were the only humans that lived here, there were governing lessons that they all followed. This idea helped the people to be aware of their surroundings and protect their environment for future use. This is how they followed these simple rules.

Close your eyes. Picture yourself in a long wooden building, called a long house. You can smell the smoke from a wood burning fire. You can see animal hides being dried. The people are all working together to prepare for a hunt, making sure that all who is involved is well prepared and trained. They wear soft shoes and have learned to walk so softly in the forest, the person in front can't hear the person behind them. With arrows and a bow strapped to their backs, the hunters set off into the forest to search for food. Walking ever so quietly, the hunters come upon a small clearing where a buck and a doe can be seen eating. The deer don't move or even acknowledge that the hunters are there. This is the first lesson: **Silence**. For if the hunters were not quiet they would scare the deer away and never get the chance to hunt them.

Next, the hunters quietly survey the situation. They do not need the meat of two animals to feed the tribe so they will not take both of the animals. So which of the animals will they take? On closer inspection, they could see that the doe may be pregnant. So the hunters decided to take the buck in order to protect the life of the unborn fawn. The fawn would grow up and in a few years may provide the hunters with food. This is the second lesson: **Respect**. The hunters never took more than they needed in order to protect the future of the animals they may need for food.

The hunters are swift in obtaining the great beast and once the animal was felled from arrows, they quickly killed the animal so it would not suffer. The hunters all help to carry the animal back to their community. Once there, the animal would be prepared for food, clothing, and tools. The hunters and other band members are careful not to waste any of the animal and use as much as they can. When the food is ready, the weakest of the village are fed first to ensure they obtained the nutrition they needed. The rest of the people would then eat. Any meat not eaten is to be saved for future meals. This is the third lesson: **Sharing**. Even though only a few of the village were responsible for bringing the food to the village, all of the people were fed.

Some of the animal is not used by the village. The hunters then collect up the left over parts and carry them back to the place where the deer had been killed. Other animals would then feed. This process is done to return what came from the earth to the earth. It also demonstrated to the creator that the hunters are not being wasteful in hopes that more successful hunts would be granted to the hunters. This is the fourth and final lesson: **Circle**. Everything the earth follows cycles or circles and by returning the animal to where it was found, the circle is completed.