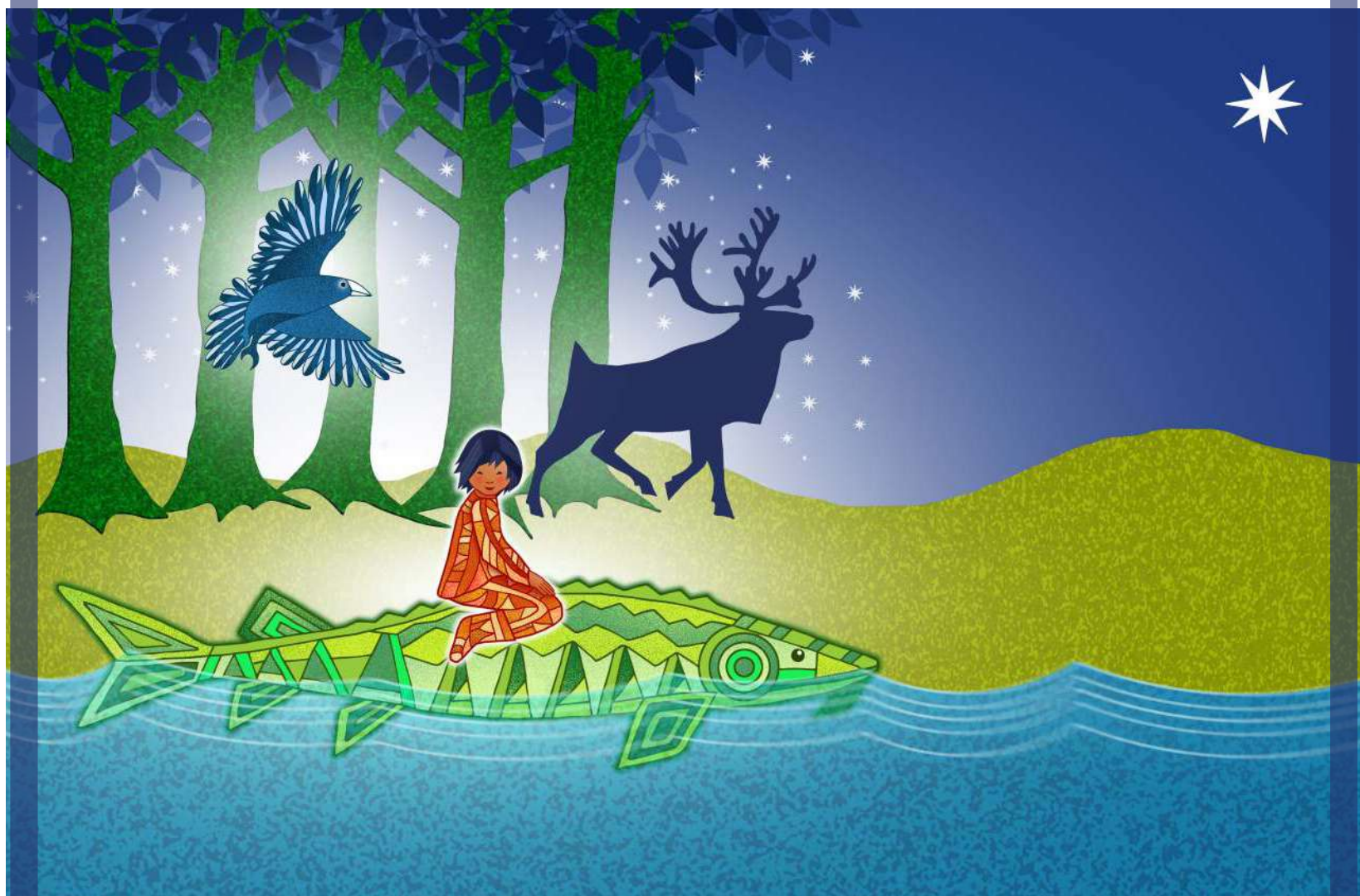


# Mokatek and the missing star



Information package for teachers  
or people who are accompanying children

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## Is this your children's first time at the theatre?

We're thrilled and honoured that you chose us for this first outing!

### Not their first time?

There are still lots of things that will fascinate the children: the performance spaces, performers, the lighting and set changes, audience seating, which is different. We have done our best to adapt the performance space to our very young friends in the audience.

### Let's go to the theatre!

To prepare the children for their theatre activity, we suggest that you explain the codes and traditions associated with being in a theatre audience so that everyone can fully benefit from the performance, respect the artists' work and be considerate of the other members of the audience.

## THEATRE TRADITIONS

- Marvel at the beauty
- Smile at the imaginary world being presented
- Laugh, even loudly (then stop)
- Clap at the end of the show (if you liked it!)
- Wait for the artists to invite us to meet them (respectfully)
- Be authorized by the artists to come and observe the set and accessories more closely (eyes only!)

## CODE OF CONDUCT

- Eat and drink before arriving at the theatre
  - Turn off your telephones (adults)
- Go to the washroom before entering the performance space to minimize movement during the performance
  - Sit down comfortably and remain as still as possible
  - Make no noise

You are about to enjoy a show filled with wonders and amazing discoveries.

We're REALLY looking forward to seeing you.

Let the adventure begin! Enjoy the show!

# MOKATEK AND THE MISSING STAR

Length: 35 minutes - For children aged 2 1/2 and up

Ever since his mother disappeared beneath the river waters, Mokatek talks to his star every night. When Mokatek sees the star that shines brighter than all the other stars in the sky, he knows it can only be his mother. She is his compass who protects and supports him from above. Losing his star would mean that once again, he would lose his beacon in the night. The quest for his star is actually a search for himself, his origins. It is a rite of passage and learning in which he will discover the strength and courage he has within himself, and finally be able to mourn his mother. He will learn that he didn't lose his star because it is always with him.

*“We do not inherit the Earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children” - Indigenous proverb*

## TEAM

Original concept, text and performance : Dave Jenniss | Translator (english) : Mishka Lavigne | Musical creation and performance : Élise Boucher-DeGonzague | Stage Director : Pier Rodier | Julie-Christina Picher : Set Design | Puppet and Set Design : Manon Doran and Pier Rodier | Lighting Design : Chantal Labonté | Sound Design : Michel DeMars | Pokjinskwes Costume Design : Danielle Boucher | Translator (anishinaabemowin) : Virginia Dumont | Technical and Stage Management : Anne Parent | Technical Assistant : Sarah Merrette-Fournier | Production director : Amélie Girard | Touring Officer : Citlali Germé | Communications Coordinator : Anaïs Gachet and Aurélie Marié

## ONDINNOK

Ondinnok is a multidisciplinary arts company, a pioneer in Indigenous theatre in Quebec and Canada. Its focus is the reclaiming of the imaginary territory of the First Peoples of the Americas through a look at their identities, cultures, mythologies and spirituality. Ondinnok is about dreams, creation, and rebirth!

## VOX THÉÂTRE

VOX Théâtre has been a breeding ground for creation and reflection on theatre for children and youth. The company stands out through insightful and audacious creations that explore different approaches to the theatrical form, with music, often unconventional sets and puppets of all kinds that leave their mark on the imagination.



## CULTURAL ELEMENTS IN THE SHOW

The original version of the show is in French with words from the Maleseet and Abenaki languages. To reach more children in other territories, it was translated into English. When we toured in Anishnaabe territory, we translated the passages written in Maleseet for the original version into Anishinaabemowin.

### MALESEET VERSION

#### THE WOLASTOQIYIK (MALESEET PEOPLE) “People of the beautiful river”

**Mokatek will share words from his Maleseet language with the children throughout his voyage.** His people’s original name, Wolastoqiyik, refers to the Wolastoq River, located in the heart of their ancestral land. Wolastoq means “Beautiful River” and Wolastoqiyik means “People of the Beautiful River” because families used to live on the shores of this great river. Today, most Maleseets live in Québec and New Brunswick. The Maleseet First Nation of Viger in Cacouna (lower St. Lawrence River) is the only Maleseet community in Québec.

#### THE W8BANAKI (ABENAKI PEOPLE) “People of the Rising Sun”

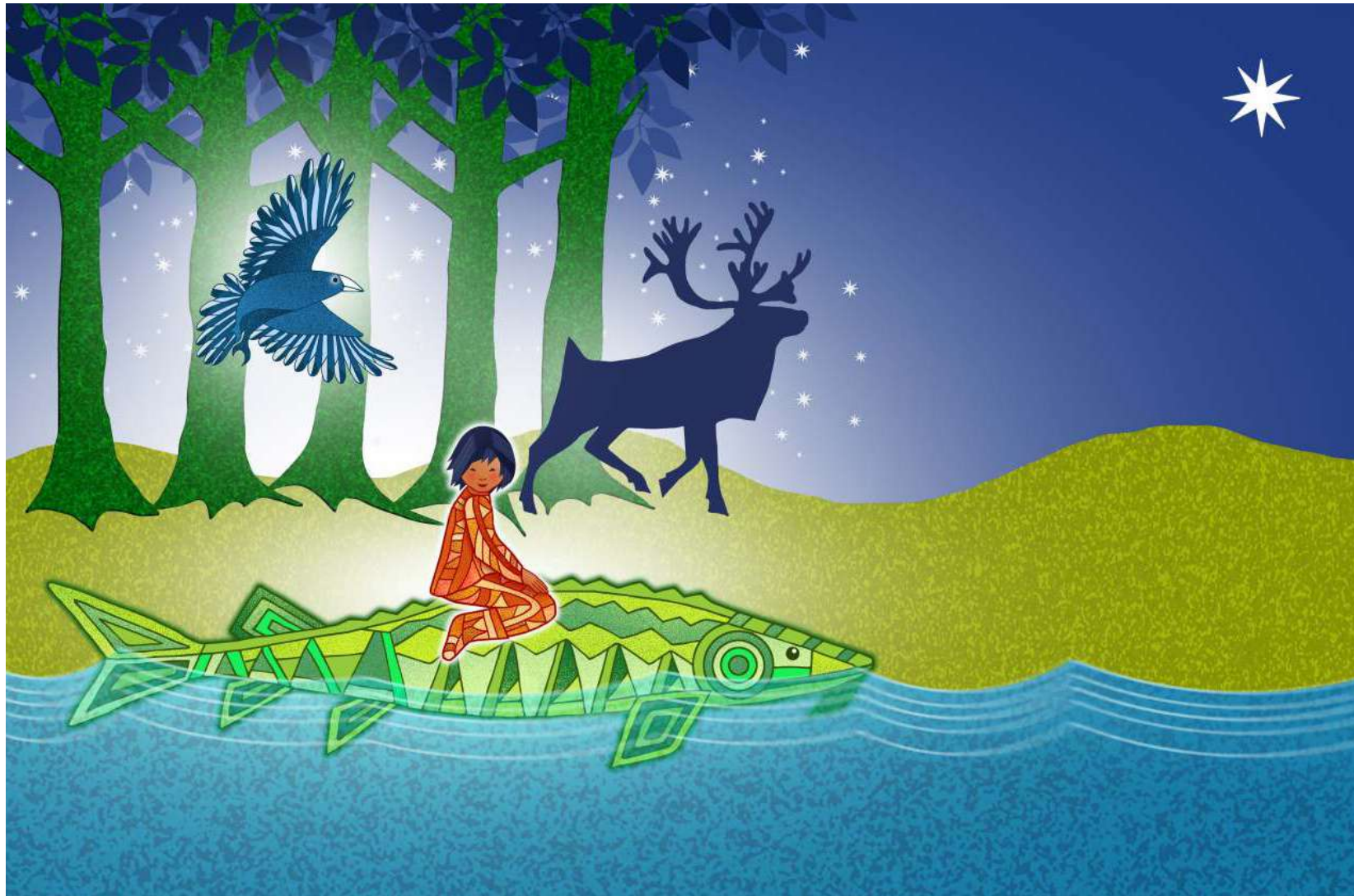
**Pojinskwes, the spirit of sounds, will guide Mokatek and the children in their adventure with his songs that include words in Abenaki.** Waban-Aki, the original name of these people, comes from the words wabun (light) and a’Ki (land). They identify themselves as the “People of the Dawn,” or “People of the East.” After living on the shores of the Chaudière River, they moved west to found the communities of Odanak and Wôlinak. Their ash wood baskets are famous throughout America, although this resource is scarcer today. In their creation myth the gods first created living creatures out of stones, then decided to begin again with a more appropriate material, the ash tree. Lovers of maple sap, they are the inventors of baked beans.

### ANISHNABEMOWIN VERSION

#### THE ANISHINABEG “The real humans”

Although in recent years the Algonquins have adopted the name with which they have identified since time immemorial, Anishinabeg, Euro-Canadians have for over 400 years imposed the use of the word Algonquin when speaking of them. We know that the Anishinabeg is the name these people used to introduce themselves, and that the word means “the real humans” but the origin of the name Algonquin is still unclear. According to the Anishinabeg, there are several versions of how the world was created. One of the legends connected with North America’s physical shape explains why the land (that of the Algonquins) has often been referred to as the Great Turtle (Mikinàk).

# THE STORY



One thing Mokatek loves to do before sleep every night is to count the stars. Ever since his mother disappeared beneath the river waters, he likes to recount his day to the brightest star in the sky, his compass that protects him from above: the North Star. One night, during a full moon, the North Star disappears. It is the beginning of an initiation journey to find the bright star and realize his inner strength and courage. A voyage to find himself and his origins, guided by the spirit of sounds and animals.

**THE SPIRITS OF THE ANIMALS THAT MOKATEK ENCOUNTERS :** Long ago, humans and animals shared absolutely everything, including the mysterious world of dreams. They could understand each other without speaking the same language. Even today, Indigenous peoples have this awareness of being part of a whole, a world in which each being (animals, plants, minerals) is very important and must be respected. The theatre can be used to evoke the spirits of the animals so we can hear what they have to tell us and teach us.



# THE RAVEN

Maleseet : Kahkakuhs

Abenaki : Mkazakw

Anishnabemowin : Kakagi



## What does it represent in this story?

Kahkakuhs is Mokatek's first guide. He acts as Mokatek's protector. Perched on his tree, he sees and hears everything. Although Mokatek finds him very mysterious, he admires his audacity, confidence and eloquence. Mokatek finds him very approachable and would like to croak with him for hours.

## What does the raven represent for First Nations?

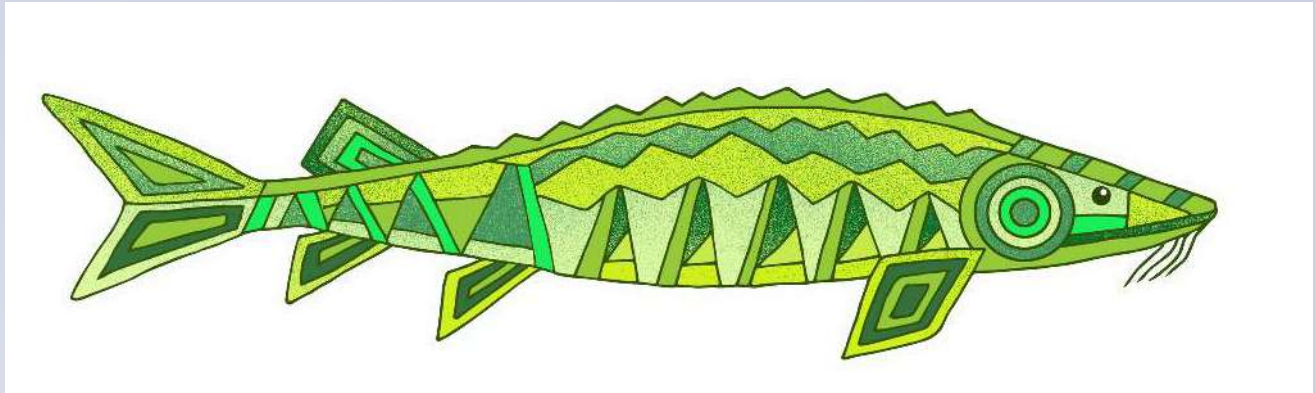
In the mythology of some Indigenous peoples, particularly among the First Nations of the Northwest Coast of America, the raven is at once beneficial, powerful and evil. Many appreciate his protective spirit.

# THE STURGEON

Maleseet : Pasokos

Abenaki : Kasaba

Anishnabemowin : Name



What does it represent in this story?

Pasokos is the ancestor of the marine world, the grandfather of the waters, Mokatek's Nmushum. The sturgeon represents the animals of the deep, profundity. Through his great wisdom and knowledge, he inspires Mokatek's respect. After having gone through immense pain caused by the disappearance of his mother, it is with the sturgeon that Mokatek will regain his self-confidence.

What does the sturgeon represent for  
First Nations peoples?

This prehistoric fish revered by First Nations has long been a valuable food resource for semi-nomadic Indigenous peoples, including the Maliseet and Abenaki. The animal was eaten in its entirety, its tanned skin provided good leather and even today the carcass is used to make many handicrafts. This fish, which can measure several metres in length, has inspired many legends of sea monsters all over the continent. However, it is completely harmless to humans. Although it is a force of nature and has survived the passage of time with more than 65 million years of existence, it is now threatened with extinction.

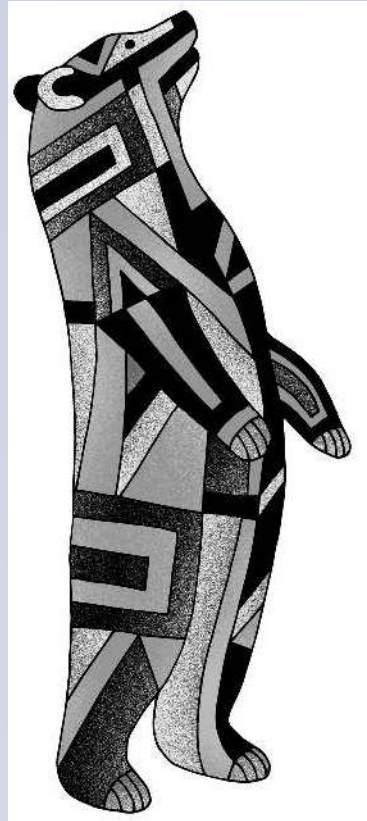


# THE BEAR

Maleseet : Muwin

Abenaki : Awassos mkazawi

Anishnabemowin : Mako



## What does it represent in this story?

Unlike what our imaginations may have led us to expect, Mokatek does not feel threatened when he meets Muwin. On the contrary, he is strongly attracted to the adventurous and courageous personality of this huge furry animal. His sensory explorations with the Bear encourage Mokatek to continue his quest for new discoveries.

## What does the bear represent for First Nations peoples?

Muwin the bear is one of the central characters of Wabanaki legends (Abenakis and Maleseet). A mythical hero who is considered a sacred animal, he is at the heart of many Indigenous peoples' spirituality. Muwin is represented as a strong and honourable figure, with impressive magical powers and superior moral qualities. In Wabanaki stories, lost or abandoned children are often adopted by Muwinkw, the mother bear.

# THE CARIBOU

Maleseet : Mokalip

Abenaki : Mag8libo

Anishnabemowin : Adik



What does it represent in this story?

Mokalip is the protector of the land and the guardian of Mokatek's star. Loyal, he has a strong sense of community and sharing. Synonymous with freedom and nobility for Mokatek, he is inspired to dance in homage to this vast territory.

What does the caribou represent for  
First Nations peoples?

Many Indigenous nations depend on the caribou for food, clothing, and the transmission of traditions from one generation to the next. They maintain a spiritual and sacred relationship with this animal who enabled them to survive for thousands of years. Even today, they understand that wasting part of the animal would be a profound lack of respect for it and the teachings of the elders. Seven Aboriginal nations from Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador have come together to protect the declining herds, now threatened with extinction.



## THE PERFORMANCE SPACE



Using a contemporary format, the show gently guides children toward a relationship with their origins, the land and Otherness. The stage set plays a central role. Children will be invited to enter the world of Mokatek and gather in 4 distinct groups, symbolizing the 4 seasons, the 4 directions, the 4 elements, and 4 animals.



## THE 4 ELEMENTS AND THEIR SACRED POWERS

Each element is introduced at a specific moment in the story, to offer its power to Mokatek in the pursuit of his quest. Their powers are interconnected and feed each other to maintain the balance of the cosmos.

### FIRE



It enters during the winter to provide Mokatek with warmth and light in the darkness of the night. The fire performs a luminous dance as a tribute to the celestial world of the spirits. This element also symbolizes the fire inside each of us.

### WATER



It appears in spring as the waters flow, the period when nature thaws and the ice returns to its original shape and place. In some ways it's a return to the source. In this story, it also symbolizes the aquatic world and all its mysteries and beauty.

### EARTH



A source of abundance, Mother Earth offers all the resources and security that Mokatek needs to continue his journey. In return, however, she asks for respect and gratitude. The Bear Dance is here to pay tribute to this land, as well as to all the ancestors who have travelled through long before him.

### AIR



It is the life source, the first internal rhythm guiding our breath. For Mokatek, this element symbolizes the return to freedom and lightness. Pushed by this element, after finishing the cycle, Mokatek finds his mother and regains his balance.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE MEDICINE WHEEL

The medicine wheel is an image that represents the life cycle. It is a wheel that is aligned with the 4 directions, representing the 4 facets of a cycle that may be present in a day, a year (4 seasons) or a lifetime.

### NORTH

This represents night, the time of transmission and transformation, possible only in winter. It is where water is magically transformed into ice and snow.

### WEST

This is the location of the setting sun, reflection and meditation, inspired by the warm light of fall.



### EAST

This is the location of the rising sun, the beginning of a cycle, renewal, blossoming with the first buds of spring.

### SOUTH

Maturity, the power of the noonday sun, associated with summer and the abundance of the warm season.

*Although the show's creators were partly inspired by the philosophy and vision of life represented in the medicine wheel, it is important to note that this story is not meant as a representation but rather, an evocation.*

# Suggested Activities

## BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

### The animals

- Suggest to the children that they take turns, either individually or in groups, transforming themselves into one of the animals. How will they represent these animals? Provide them with bits of fabric and accessories to spark their imaginations.



### The languages


- Present the words in the glossary (p. 17 - 21) and ask the children to listen carefully and say them out loud, so they will be able to recognize them during the performance.
- Incorporate these words into the children's games: animals, reading the poster, greetings, counting, etc.




## AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

Encourage the children to talk about the show and listen to what they have to say verbally, in their drawings, movement, even their silence.

### Possible conversation topics:

- **Sensory:** colours, lighting, odours, space, sounds, music
  - **Emotions:** surprise, fright, joy, happiness
  - **Reactions:** to the characters, narration, music, set
  - **Performance:** puppets, actor, musician, dances, objects
  - **Connections:** expectations based on the poster, playing at being an animal, and what was presented in the show
- 

### Possible extensions (by subject)

- **Writing:** create an illustrated Maleseet-Abenaki alphabet book (photos, images, paintings, drawings)
  - **Movement and dance:** characteristics of the animals and their movements
  - **Visual arts:** draw Mokatek's world, propose recycled or natural materials and invite the children to make their own stars
  - **Environmental education:** animal habitats, respect for the natural world
  - **Science:** night and day, the constellations
  - **Mathematics:** geometric patterns on Mokatek's clothing on the poster, counting in Maleseet
- 

# GLOSSARY

## BRANCH

**Maleseet:** Pskiyahtoq | Pronunciation: pskee-yah-tokw

**Abenaki:** Pska8tken | Pronunciation: p'-ska-8-t'-ke-n' (8= a sound between "on" and "unh")

**Anishnabemowin:** Odokon | Pronunciation: au-do-koon

## LOG

**Maleseet:** Ktuwan | Pronunciation: ktoo-won

**Anishnabemowin:** Mici | Pronunciation: mi-shi (chi)

## TWIG

**Abenaki:** Abasial | Pronunciation: a-ba-sial

**Anishnabemowin:** Micicec | Pronunciation: mi shi shesh

## CARIBOU

**Maleseet:** Mokalip | Pronunciation: moo-gah-lib

**Abenaki:** Mag8libo | Pronunciation: ma-g8- l(é)-bo

**Anishnabemowin:** Adik | Pronunciation: adak

## RAVEN

**Maleseet:** Kahkakuhs | Pronunciation: gah-gah-gousse

**Abenaki:** Pbonki Makasas | Pronunciation: p'-bo-n'k(é) ma-ka-sa-s'

**Anishnabemowin:** Kakagi | Pronunciation: kakagui

## STURGEON

**Maleseet:** Pasokos | Pronunciation: buzz-a-guz

**Abenaki:** Kabasa | Pronunciation: ka-ba-sa

**Anishnabemowin:** Name | Pronunciation: namey

## STAR

**Maleseet:** Possesom | Pronunciation: bos-seh-zom

**Abenaki:** Alakws | Pronunciation: a-la-k(o)s' (o, entre o et ou, très doux)

**Anishnabemowin:** Onigoc | Pronunciation: o-ni-gosh

# LEXIQUE

## FIRE

**Maleseet:** Sqot | Pronunciation: skwood

**Abenaki:** Skweda | Pronunciation: skou-e-da

**Anishnabemowin:** Ickode | Pronunciation: ishkodè

## THE GREAT FOREST

**Maleseet:** Kci - Kcihq ! | Pronunciation: kchee-kcheekw

**Abenaki:** Kchi spiwi | Pronunciation: k'ts(é) sp(é)-w(é)

**Anishnabemowin:** Nopimak | Pronunciation: no-pi-mak

## THE GREAT SPIRIT

**Maleseet:** Kci-Niwesq | Pronunciation: tchi-ni-wesk

**Abenaki:** Kchi Niwaskw | Pronunciation: k'ts(é) n(é)-was-k(o)

**Anishnabemowin:** Kije manido | Pronunciation: ki-jè-maan-do

## BLACK BEAR

**Maleseet:** Muwin | Pronunciation: moo-in

**Abenaki:** Awassos mkazawi | Pronunciation: a-wa-so-s' m'ka-za-w(é)

**Anishnabemowin:** Mako | Pronunciation: me-ko

## RAIN

**Maleseet:** Komiwon | Pronunciation: ga-me-won

**Abenaki:** Sogl8n | Pronunciation: so-gl-8-n'

**Anishnabemowin:** Kiniwon | Pronunciation: ki-mi-woon

## ROCK

**Maleseet:** Ponapsq | Pronunciation: ba-nupskw

**Abenaki:** Sen | Pronunciation: se-n' (e, comme de)

**Anishnabemowin:** Asini

## THUNDER

**Maleseet:** Petakiw | Pronunciation: bed-ah-giw

**Abenaki:** Pad8gi | Pronunciation: pa-d8-gu(é)

**Anishnabemowin:** Animiki | Pronunciation: a-ni-mi-ki



## MORE WORDS YOU CAN LEARN IN THESE LANGUAGES

### HELLO

**Maleseet:** Qey | Pronunciation: kwey

**Abenaki:** Kwaï | Pronunciation: kwa-i

**Anishnabemowin:** Mino kijigan | Pronunciation: mi no k i ji gann

### GOOD MORNING

**Maleseet:** Woli sepawiw | Pronunciation: woolie-zeb-ah-wiw

**Anishnabemowin:** Mino kijeba

### GOOD DAY

**Abenaki:** Wli Kizokw | Pronunciation: (o)lé ké-zo-k(o)

### OCEAN CATFISH

**Maleseet:** Mokahk | Pronunciation: mah-gawk

**Abenaki:** Sebagwimalsem | Pronunciation: se-ba-g(o)-(é)- mal'-se- m'

### MOON

**Maleseet:** Kisuhs | Pronunciation: ghee-zeus

**Abenaki:** P8gwas | Pronunciation: p8-gwa-s'

**Anishnabemowin:** Tibik kizis | Pronunciation: ti-bik-ki-ziss

### THANK YOU

**Maleseet:** Woliwon | Pronunciation: woolie-won

**Abenaki:** Wliwni | Pronunciation: (o)-l(é)-(o)-n(é)

**Anishnabemowin:** Migwetc | Pronunciation: mi-gue-wè-tche

## MORE WORDS YOU CAN LEARN IN THESE LANGUAGES

### THANKS A LOT

**Maleseet:** Woliwon Komac | Pronunciation: woolie-won gah-mudge

**Abenaki:** Kchi wliwni | Pronunciation: k'- tsé (o)-l(é)-(o)-n(é)

**Anishnabemowin:** Kitci migwetc | Pronunciation: ki-tchee migue-wè-tche

### NO

**Maleseet:** Nama | Pronunciation: Na-ma

**Abenaki:** Nda | Pronunciation: N'- da

**Anishnabemowin:** Kawin | Pronunciation: kâ-winn ou ka-yin

### YES

**Maleseet:** Aha | Pronunciation: Ah-ha

**Abenaki:** 8h8 | Pronunciation : 8-h-8

**Anishnabemowin:** ehe | Pronunciation: èhè

# NUMBERS

ONE

1

**Maleseet:** Pesq | Pronunciation: beskw

**Abenaki:** M8lsemisobagw | Pronunciation : pa-zo-k(o)

**Anishnabemowin:** Pejik | Pronunciation: pè-jak

TWO

2

**Maleseet:** Nis | Pronunciation: niz

**Abenaki:** Nis | Pronunciation: n(é)-s'

**Anishnabemowin:** Nijin | Pronunciation: ni-jann

THREE

3

**Maleseet:** Nihi | Pronunciation: knee-he

**Abenaki:** Nas | Pronunciation: na-s'

**Anishnabemowin:** Nisin | Pronunciation: ni-sinn

FOUR

4

**Maleseet:** New | Pronunciation: Nehw

**Abenaki:** law | Pronunciation: (é)- a-(o)

**Anishnabemowin:** Newin | Pronunciation: nè-winn

FIVE

5

**Maleseet:** Nan | Pronunciation: Nun

**Abenaki:** N8lan | Pronunciation: n8-la-n'

**Anishnabemowin:** Nanan | Pronunciation: nâ-nann



# IN POKJINSKWES' SONGS WE HEAR THESE WORDS:

## EXCLAMATION OF JOY

**Abenaki:** ĩahi | Pronunciation: i-a-h(é)

## YOU

**Abenaki:** Kia | Pronunciation: k(é)-a

## WATER

**Abenaki:** Nebi | Pronunciation: ne-b(é)

## YOU SING

**Abenaki:** Kd'alinto | Pronunciation: k'da-l(é)-n'-to

## YOU DANCE

**Abenaki:** K'pmeg8 | Pronunciation: k'p'me-g8

## BEAR SPIRIT

**Abenaki:** Wkawinno | Pronunciation: (o)-ka-w(é)-no

## WHO KNOWS

**Abenaki:** Wawidah8zo | Pronunciation: wa-w(é)-da-h8-zo

## COME

**Abenaki:** Nawa | Pronunciation: na-wa

### Consultation with the Abenaki Language Office in Odanak

Main reference book:

French-Abenakis vocabulary by Monique Nolett-Ille

Centre éducatif et culturel Wanaskaodemek (Odanak-1996)

Note from Monique Nolett-Ille:

- The 8 sign represents a particular sound that is very common in the Abenaki language. It is pronounced like a nasal “unh” (a sound between “on” and “unh”)
  - The “i” is pronounced like a very soft “eh”.
- The letter “w” before a consonant or at the end of a word is pronounced like a soft “o” (a sound between “oh” and “oo”).

**Thanks! Abenaki: Wliwni | Pronunciation: olehoneh (o, between oh and oo, very soft)**

# Contact Us

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