



Yeienhwi's onywawenda' 'I'm learning our language'

Who are the Wendat people?
The Wendat language: Dormancy,
revitalisation, and linguistic reconstruction
Characteristics and pronunciation of the language

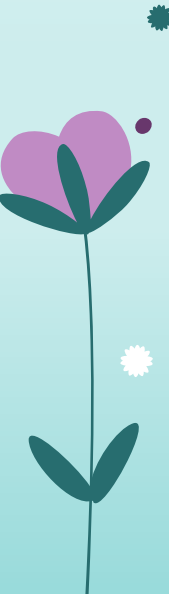
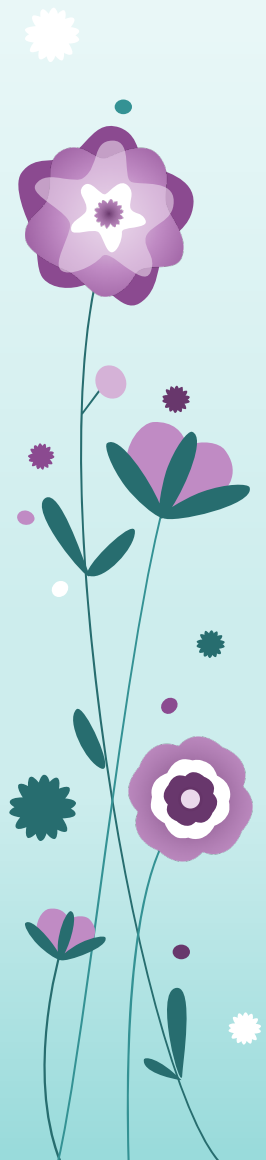
O'nianih 1 (Week 1)

Level SKAT (Level 1)

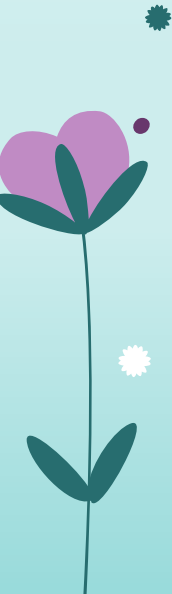
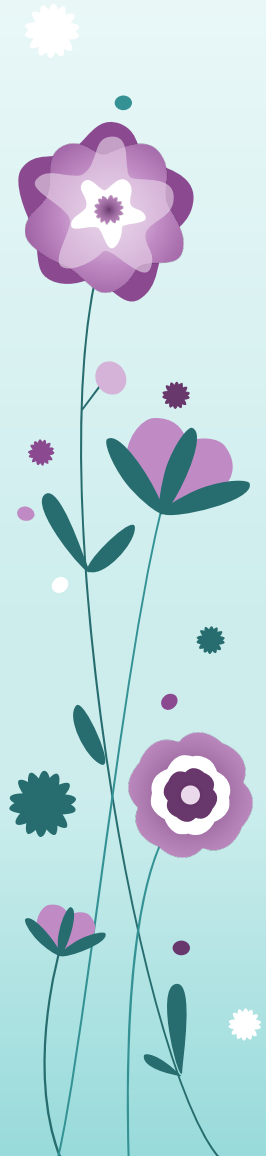
The Wendat: Huronia



The Wendat: Huronia



The Wendat: Huronia



The Wendat Confederacy

5 Nations

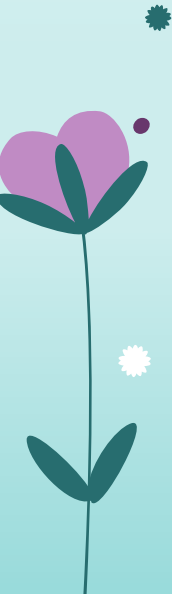
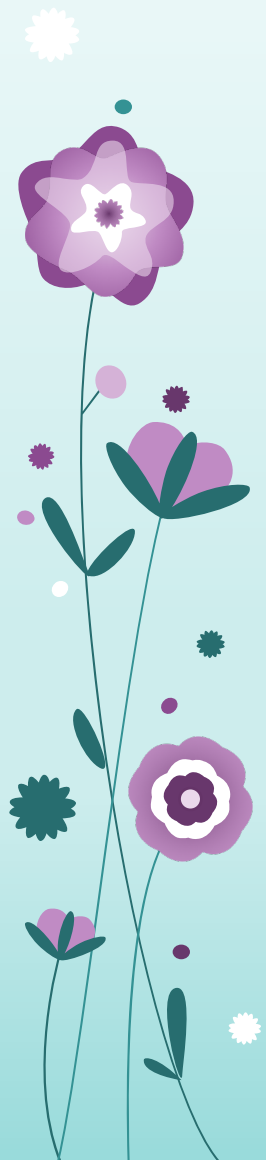
Deer Nation

Bear Nation

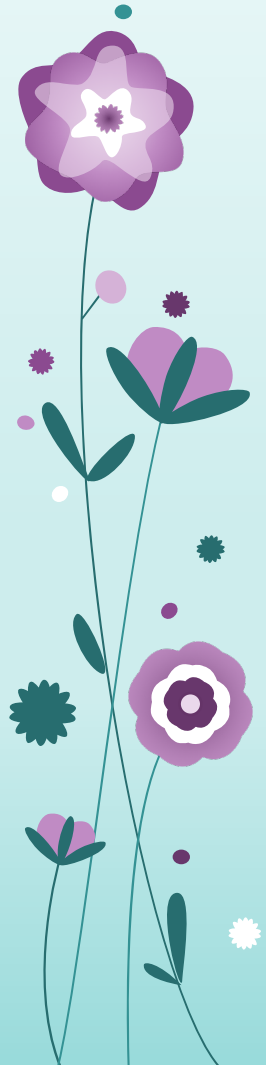
Rock Nation

Cord Nation

Swamp Nation



The Wendat : 8 clans



Turtle Clan

Bear Clan

Deer Clan

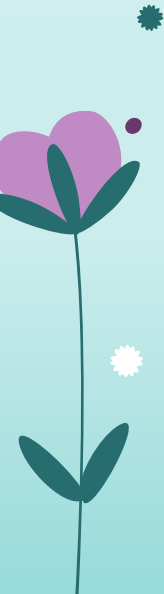
Loon Clan

Hawk Clan

Beaver Clan

Wolf Clan

Fox Clan



The Wendat : Women and Men

Femme

- Passes down her clan;
- Clan Mother;
- Planting *Tionnehkwih*;
- Role of the maternal uncle, *Hatennonron*;
- *Änen'enh* (mother, maternal aunt);
- Feminine is default gender;
- Matricentric.
- *Clearly defined roles, balanced society*

Homme

- Politics, war;
- Commerce;
- Hunting, fishing;
- Boats;
- Tobacco;
-

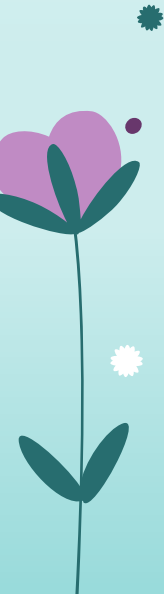
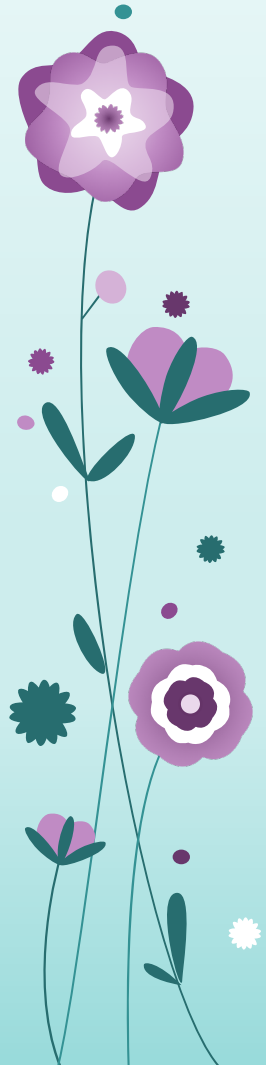
What's a language?

A **language** is the worldview of a people.

A group of people who speak the same language is called a *linguistic community*.

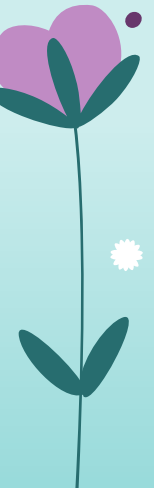
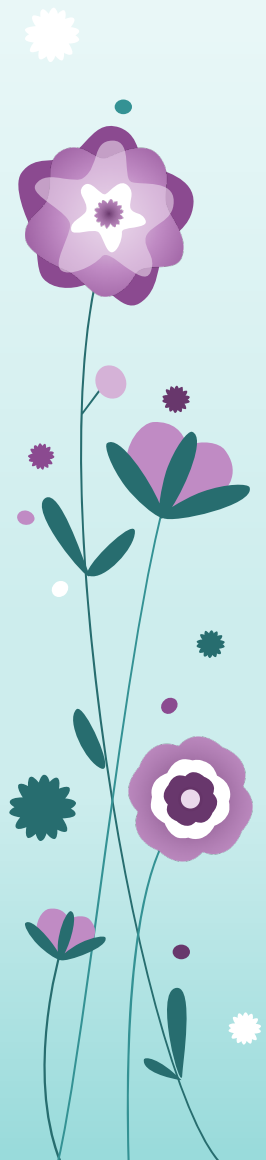
Each community has its own language.

Each language represents a **different view of the world**.



The Wendat language

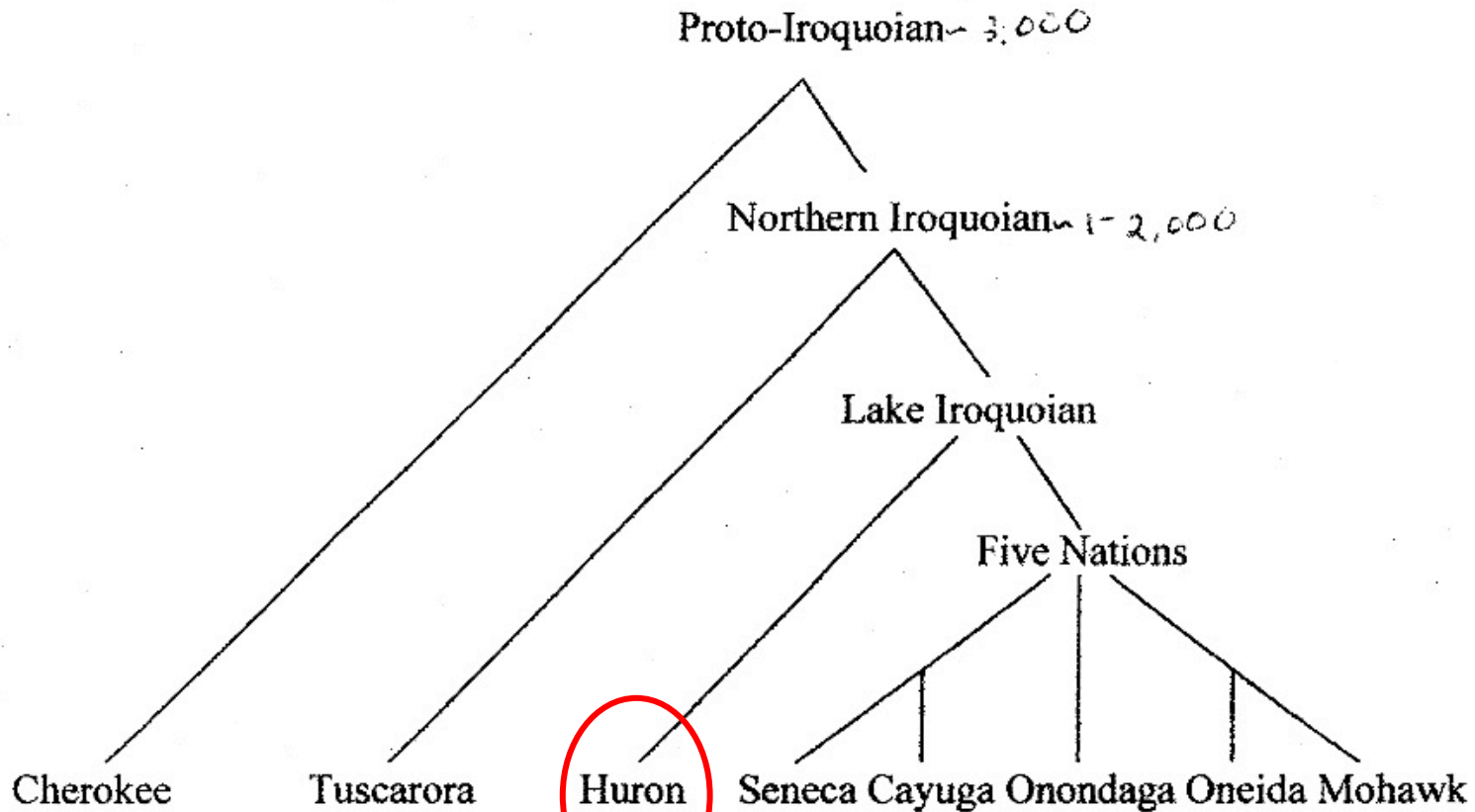
- The Wendat language is an **Iroquoian** language;
- In the **17th** century, the number of speakers was estimated to be **40,000**;
- Wendat stopped being spoken fluently around **1850**;
- The last speakers probably passed away at the **beginning of the 20th century**.



The Wendat language

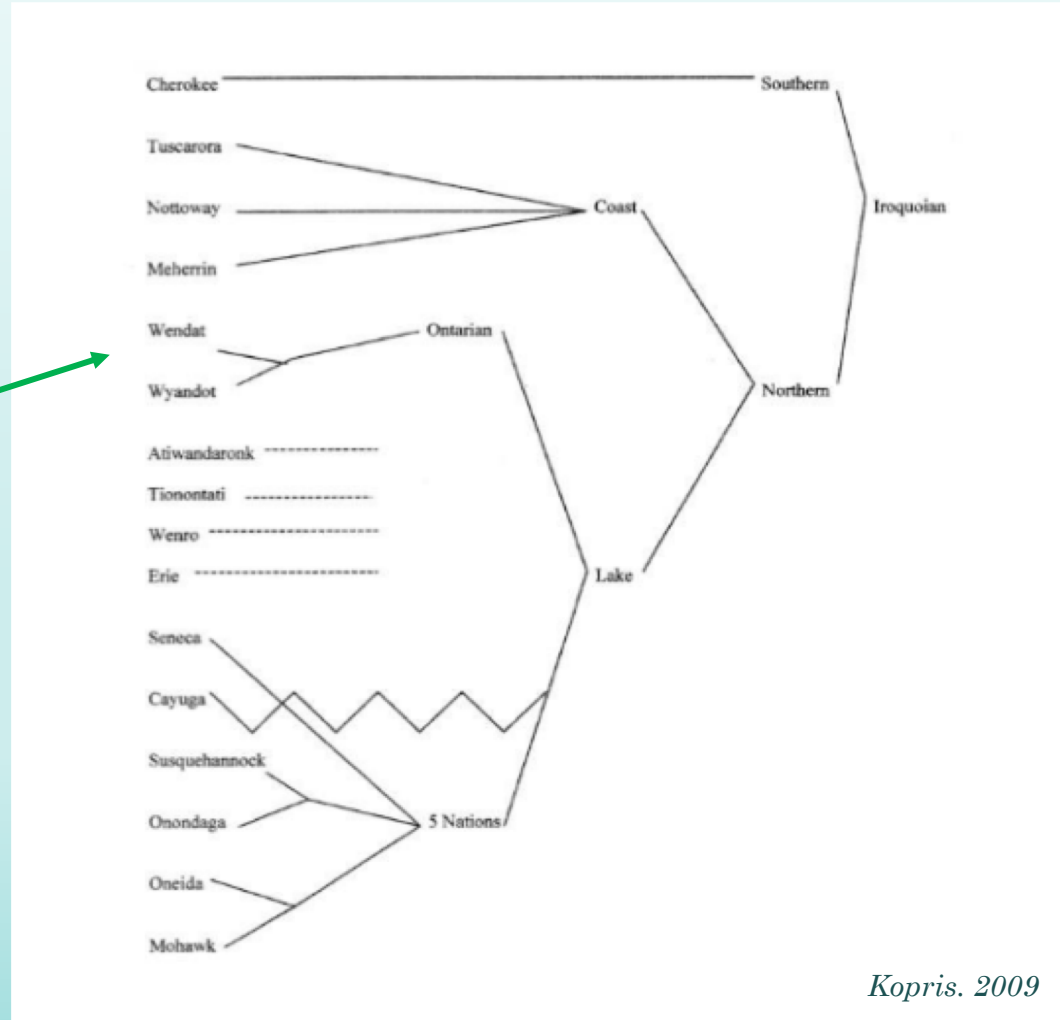
Iroquoian language family

Family Tree of Iroquoian Languages



The Wendat language

Iroquoian language family



Iroquoian languages vs. Algonquian languages

Iroquoian

Wendat

Wyandot

Mohawk

Seneca

...

Algonquian

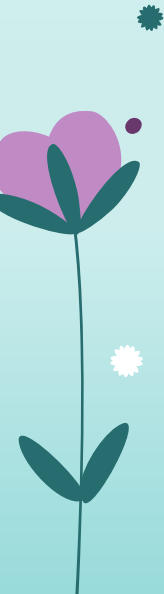
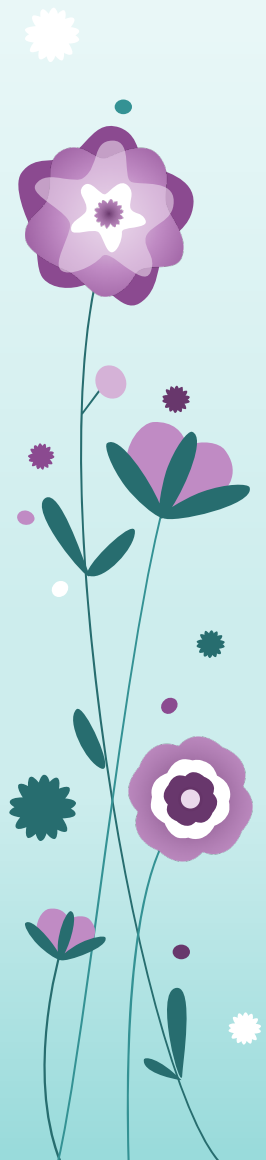
Innu-Aimun

Objiwe/Anishnaabemowin

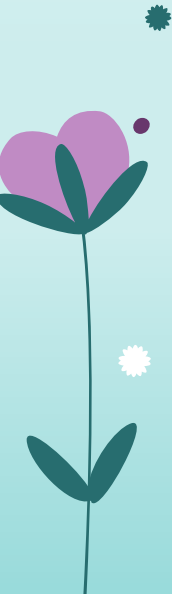
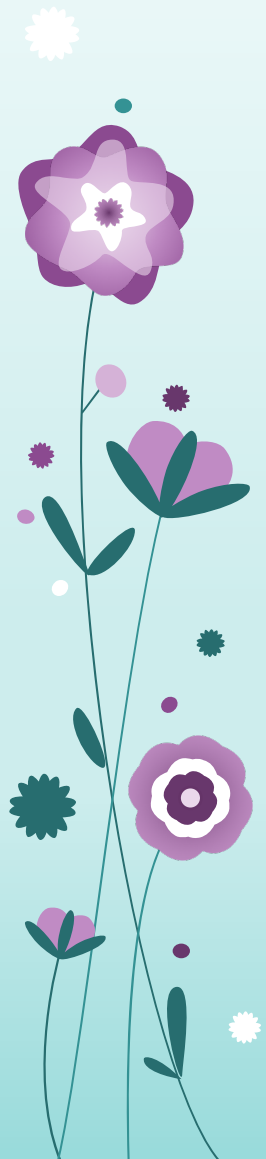
Atikamekw

Naskapi

...



Why revitalize a language?



Why revitalize a language?

- The strong ties to **identity**;
- **To unite** the Wendat community;
- The desire to **reappropriate** our **culture**, our **history**, our **language**;
- The desire to preserve our **cultural heritage** and our **identity**;
- To assure that our **Nation** continues to flourish;

*Beyond conveying a sense of belonging,
we can read our history through our language and understand the
worldview of our ancestors.*



A DEAD LANGUAGE

versus

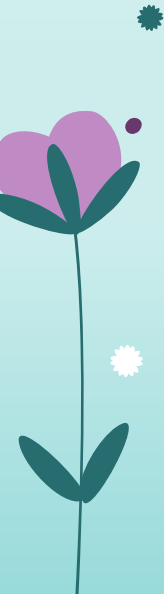
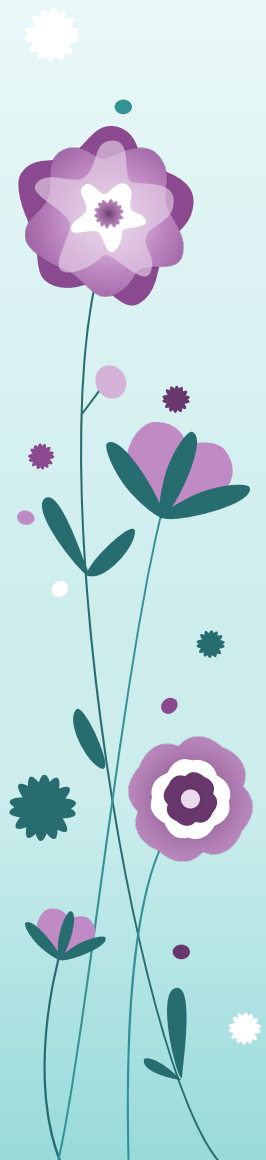
A LIVING LANGUAGE



A dead language....

- ✓ Doesn't evolve = it's **stagnant**;
- ✓ Isn't used = it's no **longer spoken**;
- ✓ Doesn't have a **linguistic community** attached to it .

Some examples: **Sumerian, Gothic, Latin.**



A living language....

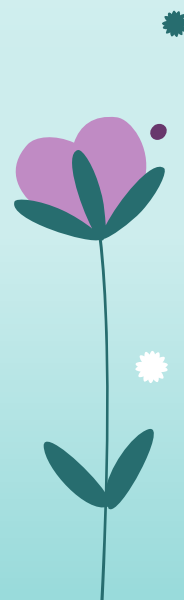
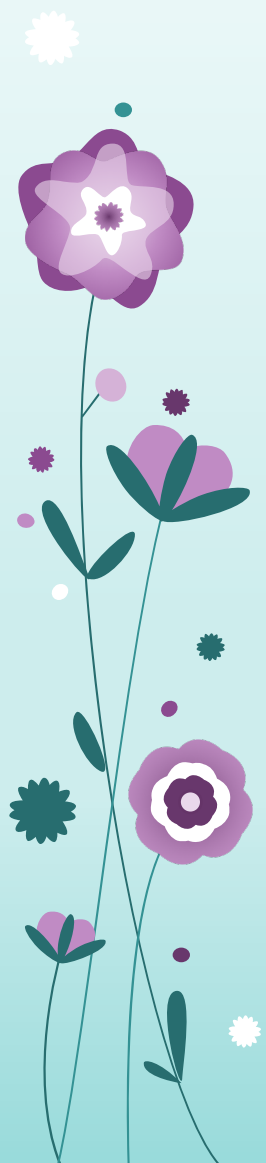
A healthy language:

- ✓ **Evolves** = it's always **moving**;
- ✓ Is used, is spoken **fluently**;
- ✓ Is **spoken by a linguistic community**.

Some examples are English, French, German...

Wendat: a formerly dormant language

- ✓ Its evolution was **temporarily stopped**;
- ✓ A **linguistic community** is still attached to it;
- ✓ The language was and continues to be used to name **cultural, traditional, and spiritual activities** (*songs, dances, sports, traditional foods, etc.*);
- ✓ The language survived and lives still through the **names of places** that we spend time in and through those individuals who have **Wendat names**;
- ✓ In the **stories, myths** et **legends** inherited from our ancestors;



The current situation with the Wendat language

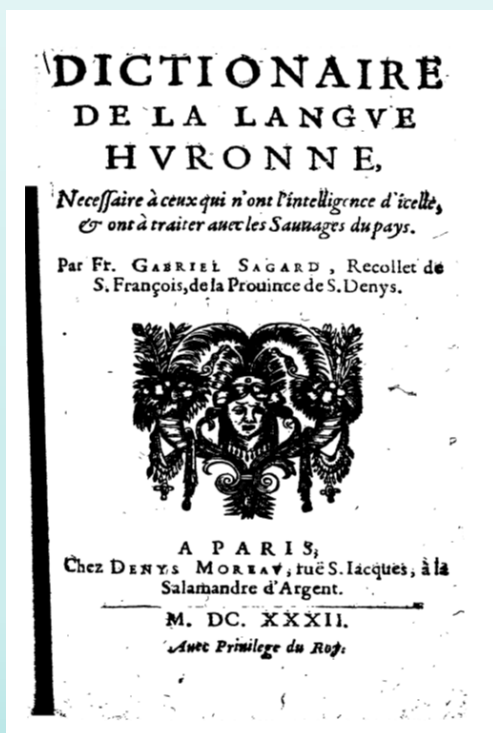
- The Wendat language has been **reawakened**.
- In Wendake, we've been able to start the **revitalization** process thanks to **Project Yawenda** in **2007**. *

Our language is currently undergoing a
**process of revitalization and a process of linguistic
reconstruction:**

its is **reconstructed, taught and transmitted** to others.

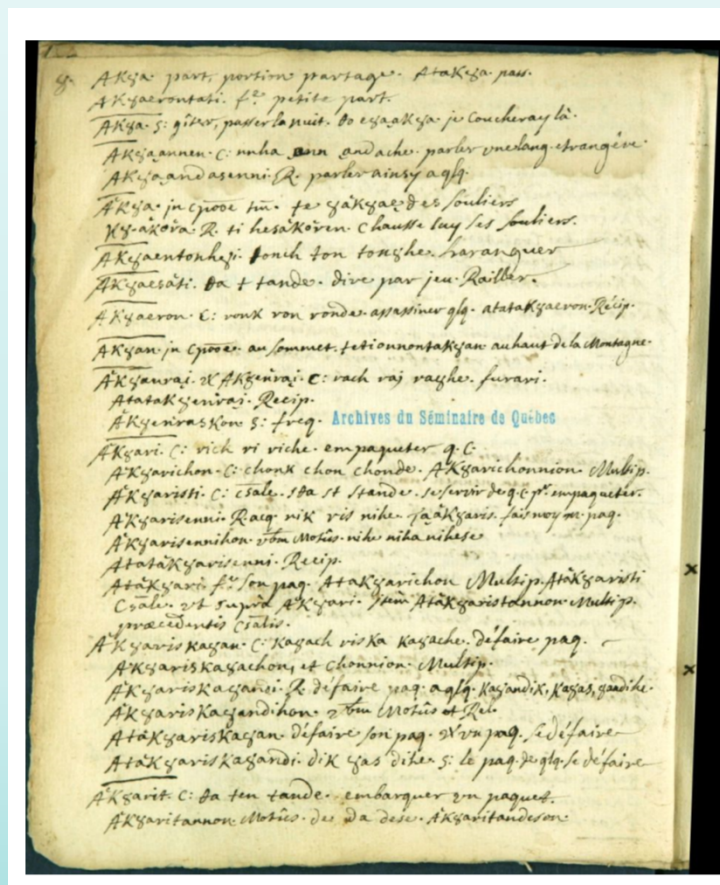
Wendat language: A rich documentation

Garbiel
Sagard
Récollet



Manuscript 59

page 9

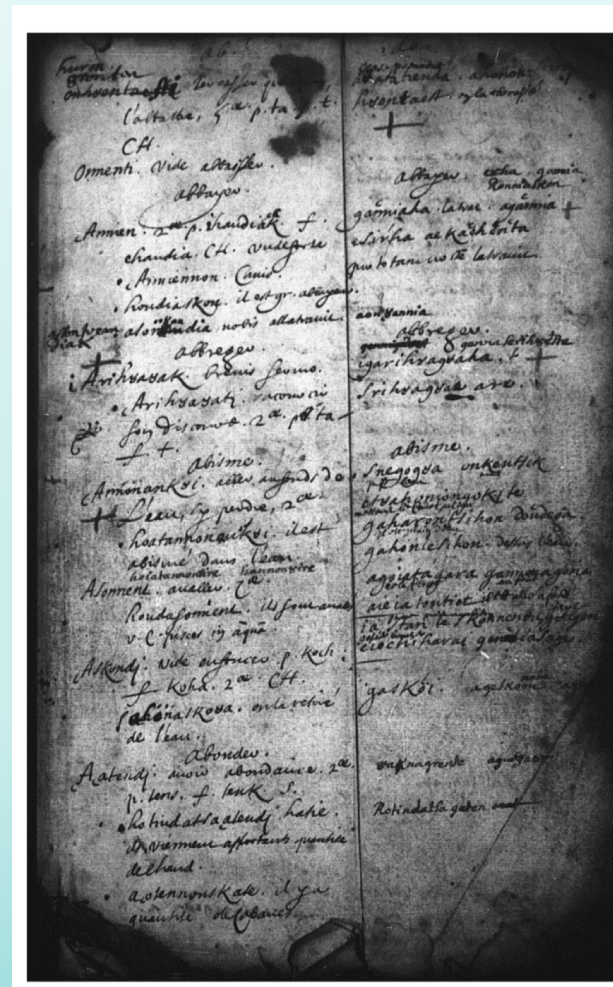


Wendat language: A rich documentation

Manuscript huron-iroquois

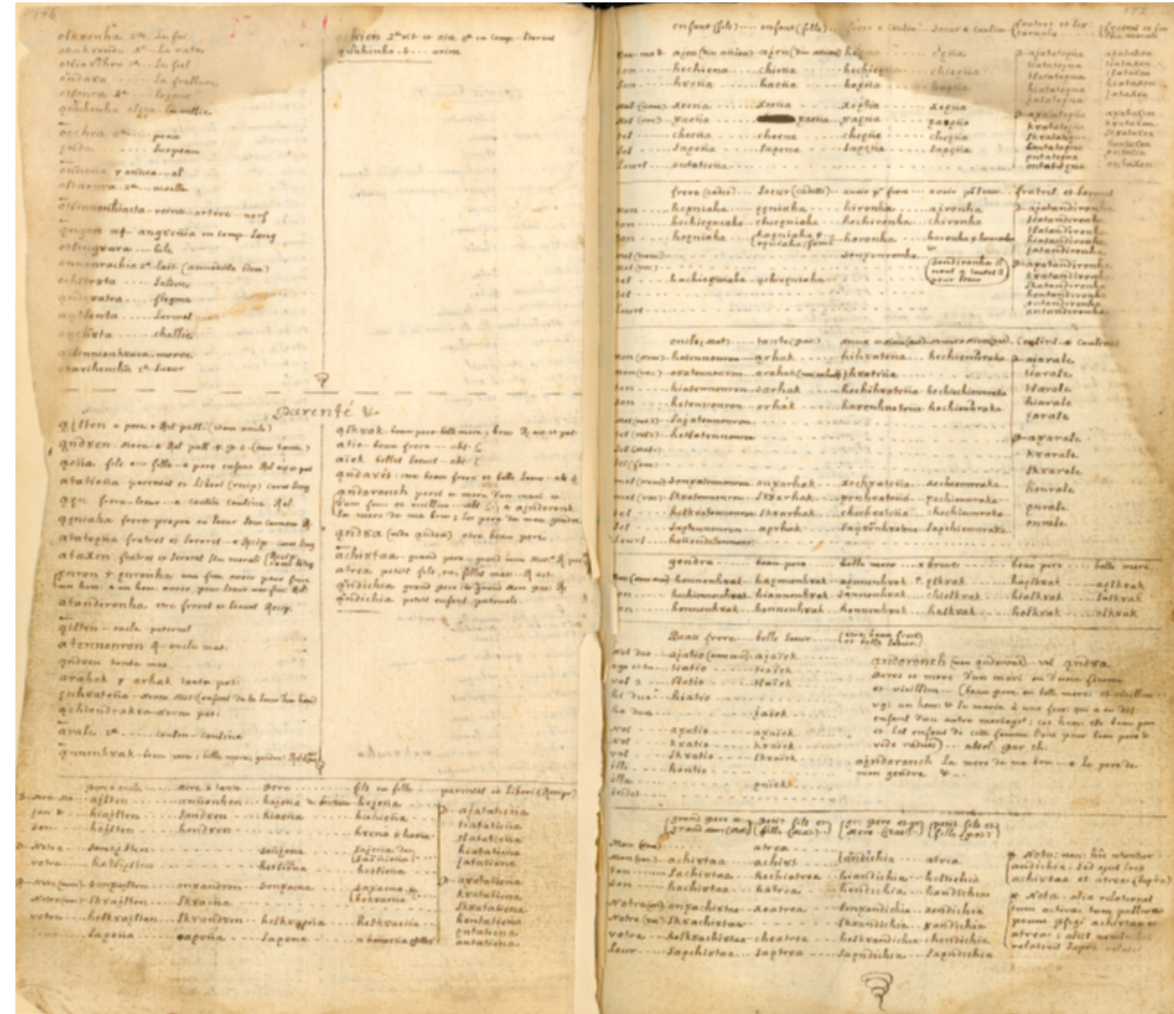
Onontaheranon

page 11



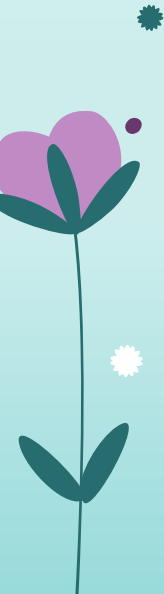
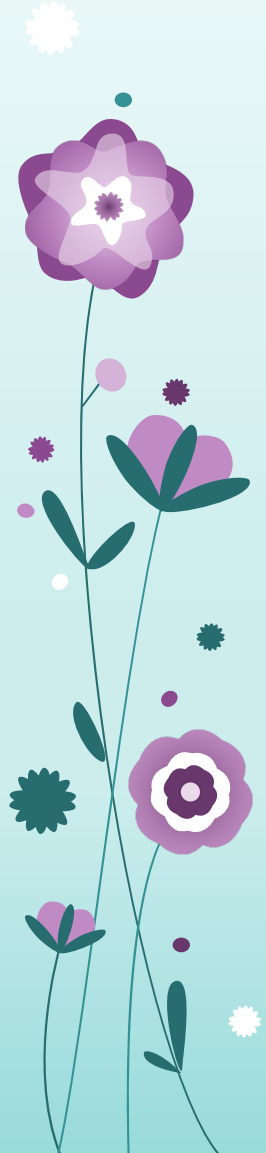
Wendat language: A rich documentation

Potier's Vocabulary page 12



Wendat language: Characteristics

- Consists of more **VERBS** than **NOUNS** ;
- **Polysynthetic language**:
 1. Verb roots et bases;
 2. Noun roots;
 3. Affixes;
 4. Particles
- Functions **DIFFERENTLY** from English!



Wendat language: Characteristics

Basic structure of verb:
3 obligatory parts

Prefix

Root or Base

Suffix

Wendat language: Characteristics

Standardization of the Wendat alphabet

The Wendat alphabet consists of seventeen letters: twelve consonants (in blue) and five vowels (in red).

A	C	D	E	G	H	I	K	N	O	R	S	T	U	W	Y	'
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

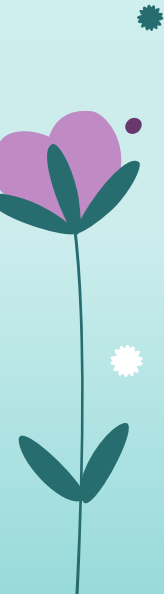
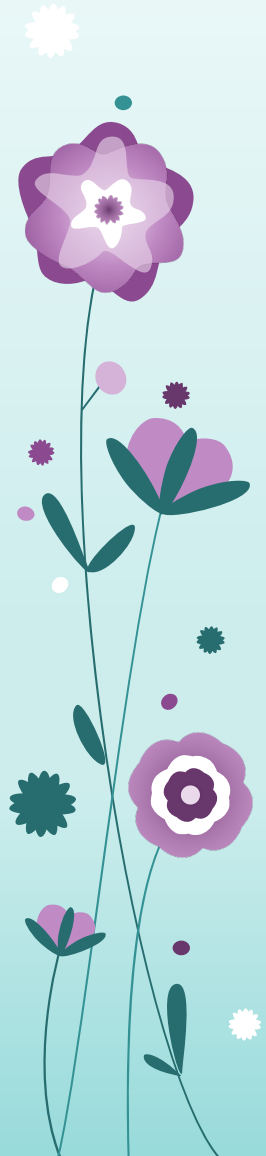
Pronunciation

Every letter represents a sound

All of the letters in a word must be pronounced.

There are no extra letters that aren't pronounced.

Examples: the k in knee



Pronunciation

Nasal vowels

The vowels o, a, and e are nasal if followed by a n, **except** if they have a diaeresis (¨) (then they are regular vowels).

on nasal **ön** not nasal

an nasal **än** not nasal

en nasal **ën** not nasal

the vowel **i** is never nasal, **in** is pronounced like the word *in*

Pronunciation

The diaeresis

The diaeresis symbol (¨) can appear over the following vowels: ä, ë, ö, and ï. The diaeresis indicates that this vowel is pronounced separately from the following sound.

For example, the word *änen'enh* 'my mother' is pronounced [a-NEN'-enh]. In this example, the vowel *ä* is pronounced by itself and doesn't combine with the following *n* to make the nasal vowel *an*.

Another example: the word *önonta* 'mountain' is pronounced [o-NON-ta']. The vowel *ö* is pronounced separately from the following *n*.

Pronunciation

Long vowels

When there are two identical vowels next to each other (and there is no diaeresis on the first vowel), that means that we should lengthen the sound of the vowel.

We don't pronounce the vowel twice.

For example, the word *yändaata* 'bed' is pronounced [ya-NDAA-ta'] with a long vowel in the middle.

This is distinct from the word *yändata* 'village' which doesn't have a long vowel.

Pronunciation



Accent

Generally, the accent in a word falls on the **second to last syllable**.

For example, the word ***a'tatonhcha'*** 'basket' is pronounced [a'-ta-**TONH**-cha'], with the accent on the syllable in caps.

In a word with two syllables, the accent falls on the first syllable.

When the accent doesn't fall on the second to last syllable, the accent is marked with an acute accent symbol (').

Example: in the word ***haó'*** 'yes', the accent falls on the last syllable



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

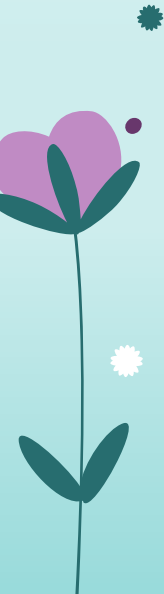
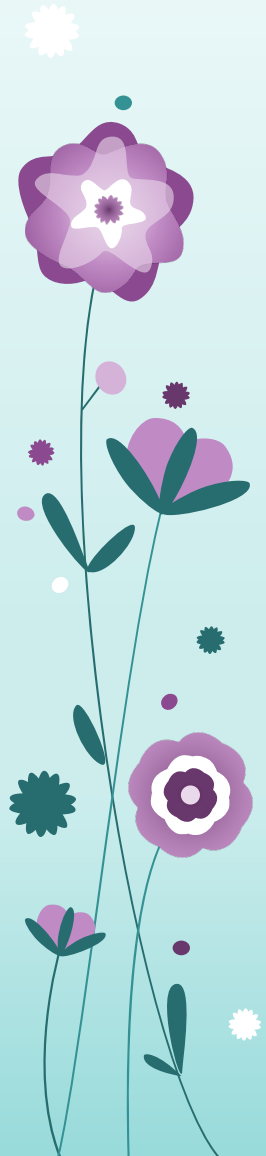
Greetings and useful phrases

1. Kwe! Ndio! **Hello! Hi!**

2. Yiheh! **Welcome!**

3. Haó' **Yes**

4. Stan' **No**



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

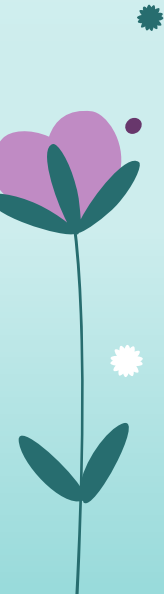
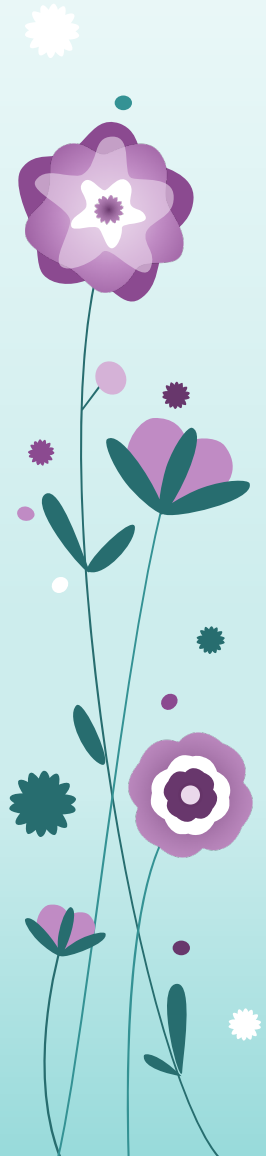
Greetings and useful phrases

5. Yändeia inenh! **Good job!**

6. Kahahchia'! **Wow!**

7. Tiawenhk **Thank you!**

8. Önenh! **Bye!**



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

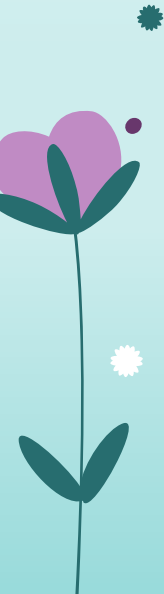
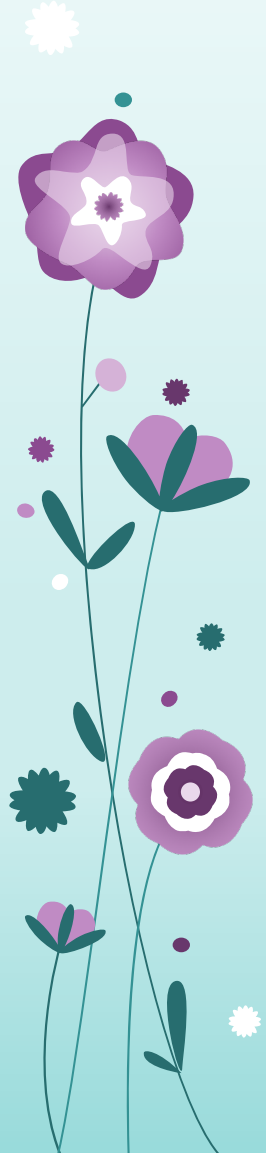
Greetings and useful phrases

9. Hahnenhrönonh de'sa'

Which nation are you from?

Wendat endi'

I am Wendat.



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

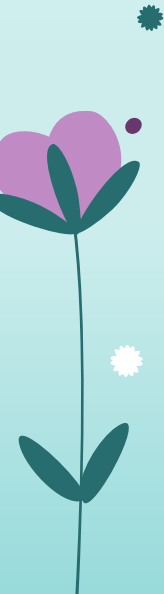
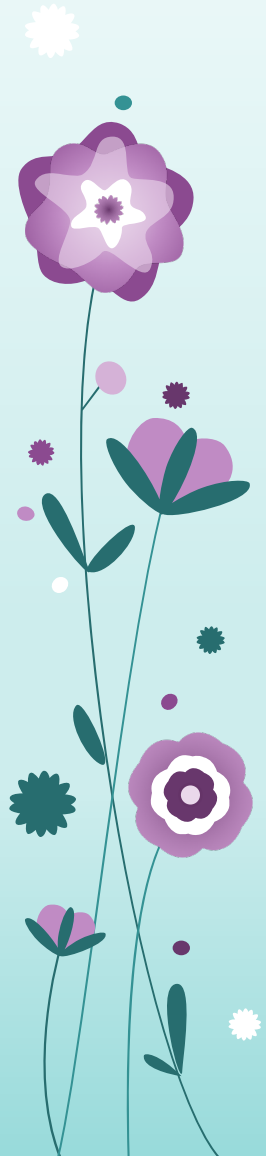
Greetings and useful phrases

10. Ta'ohten' chiatsih?

What is your name?

_____ yiatsih

My name is _____

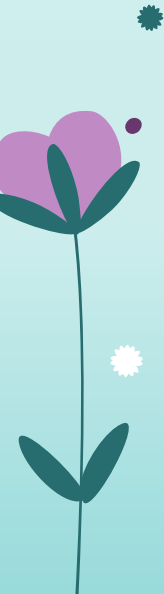
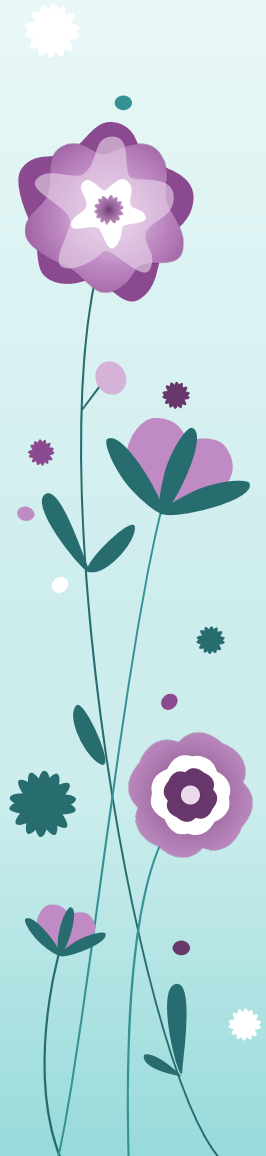


Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

11. Ta'oht esentiohkou'tenh ?

Which clan are you?



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

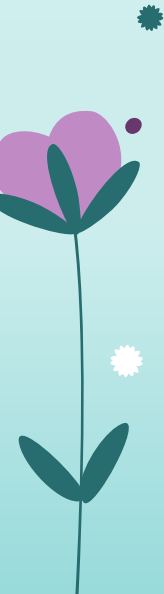
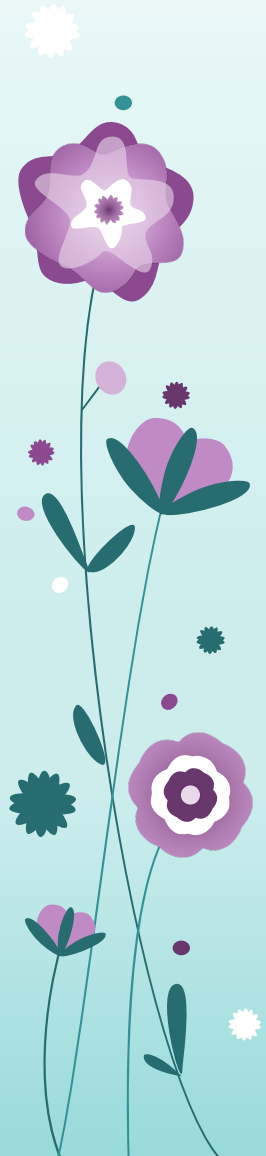
Greetings and useful phrases

1. Yändia'wich iwayitiohkou'tenh

I'm Turtle clan.

2. Yänariskwa' iwayitiohkou'tenh

I'm Wolf clan.



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

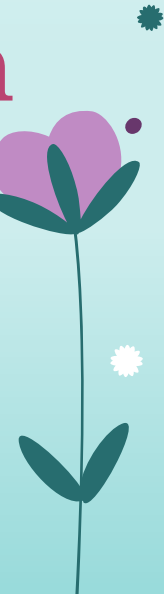
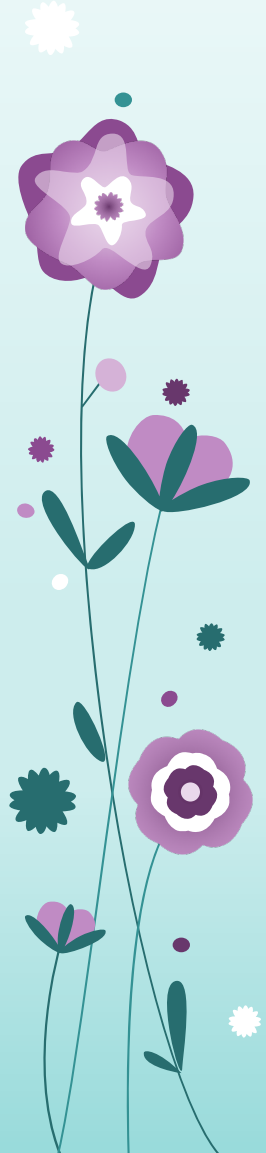
Greetings and useful phrases

3. Yänionyen' iwayitiohkou'tenh

I'm Bear clan.

4. Ohskänonton' iwayitiohkou'tenh

I'm Deer clan.



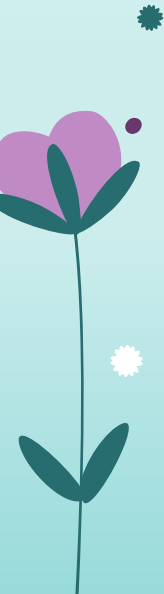
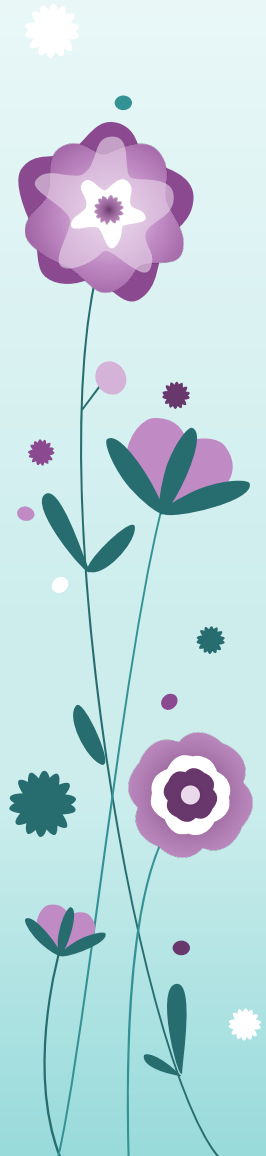
Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

12. Ahskennon'nia ihchie's ?

How are you doing?

Are you in peace?



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

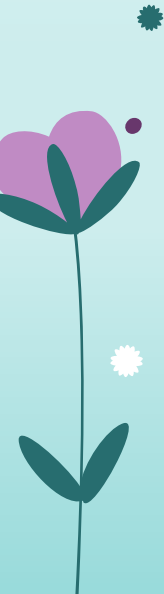
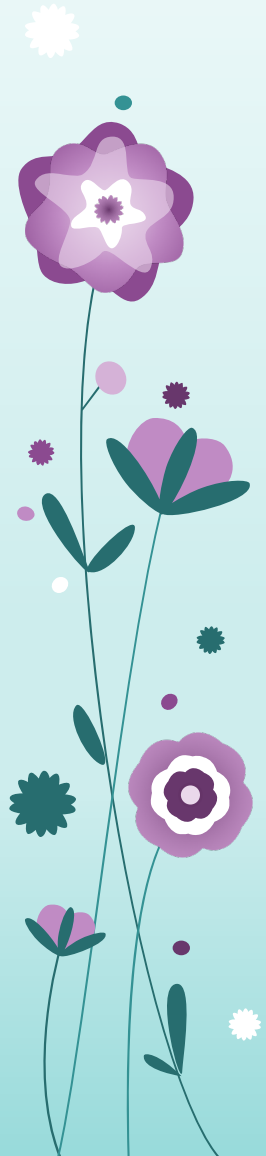
Greetings and useful phrases

1. Ahskennon'nia iye's.

I'm doing well -» I'm in peace

2. Te'wayakwahstih.

I'm not happy

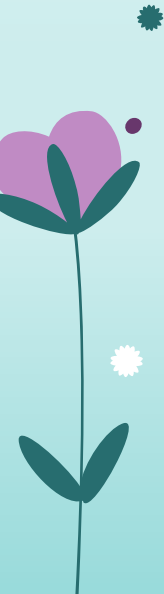
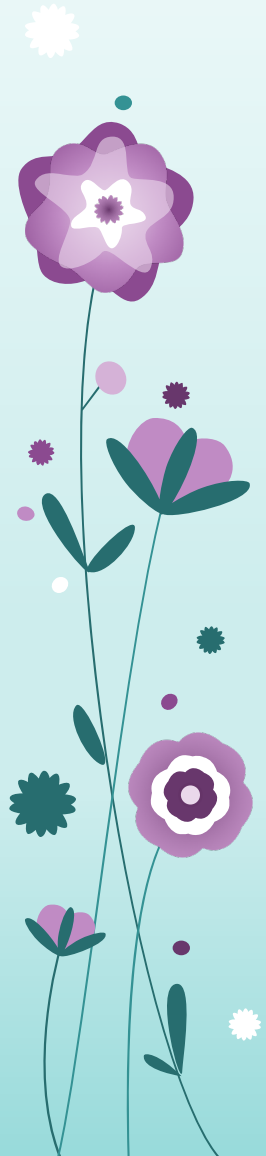


Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

13. Hahnen' ihstare'?

Where do you live?



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

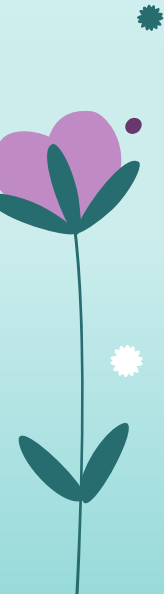
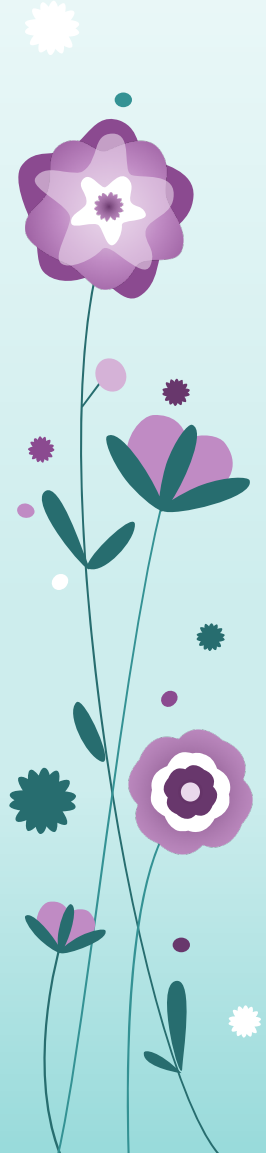
Greetings and useful phrases

1. Wendake indare'.

I live in Wendake.

2. Teyiatontariyih indare'.

I live in Quebec City.



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

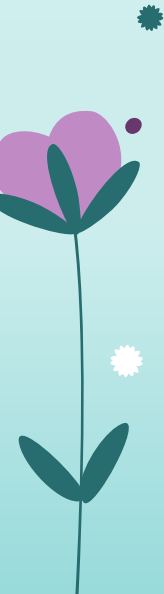
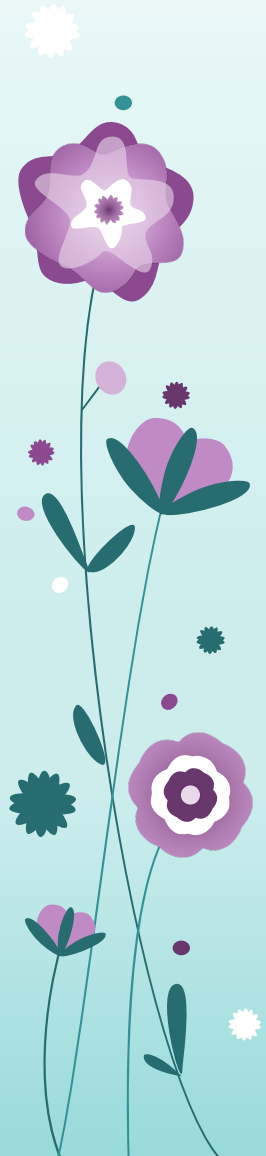
Greetings and useful phrases

3. Roreke indare'.

I live in Loretteville.

4. Teotia'yih indare'.

I live in Montreal.

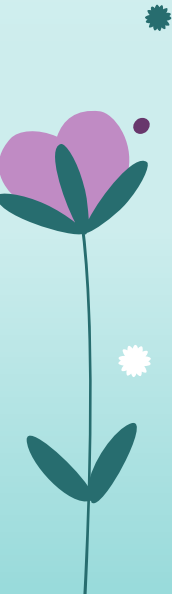
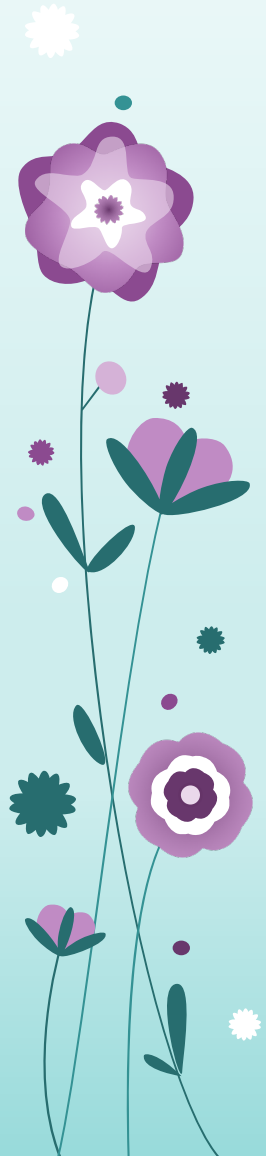


Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

14. Hahnen' etisehtih?

Where are you from?



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

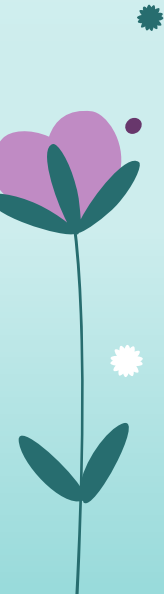
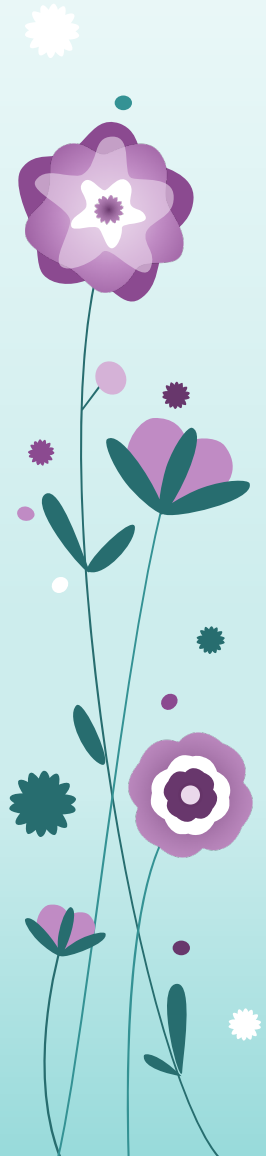
Greetings and useful phrases

1. Wendake ekwayehtih.

I'm from Wendake.

2. Teyiatontariyih ekwayehtih.

I'm from Quebec City.



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

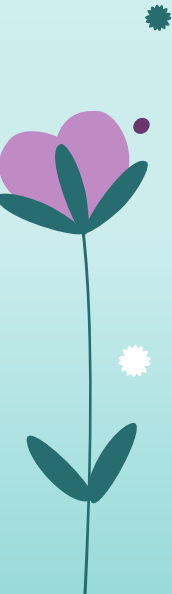
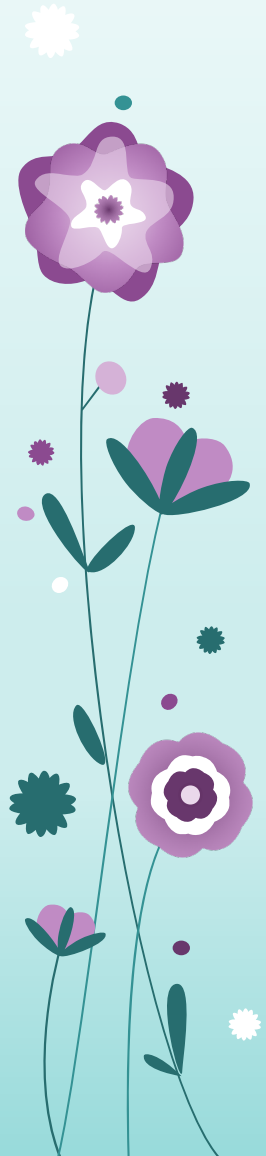
Greetings and useful phrases

3. Roreke ekwayehtih.

I'm from Loretteville.

4. Teotia'yih ekwayehtih.

I'm from Montreal.



Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

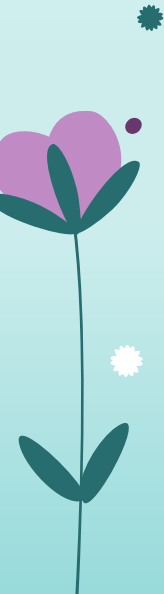
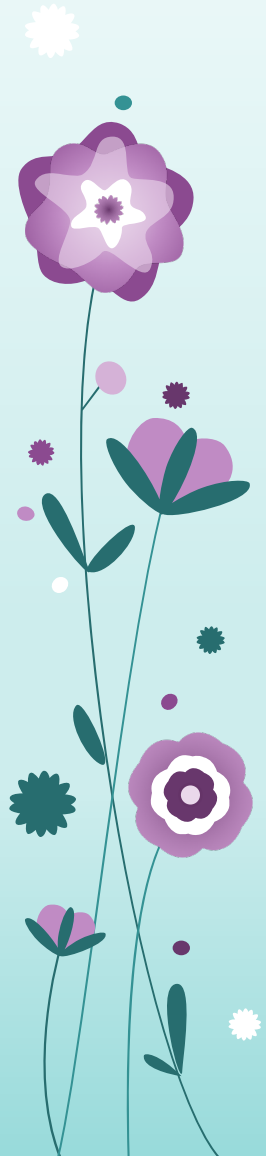
Greetings and useful phrases

Yäatsih....

Her name is...

Häatsih....

His name is...



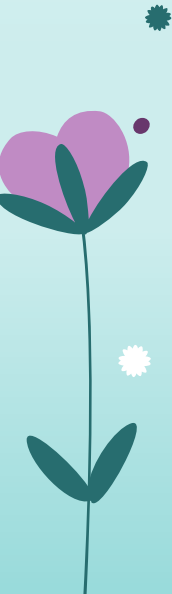
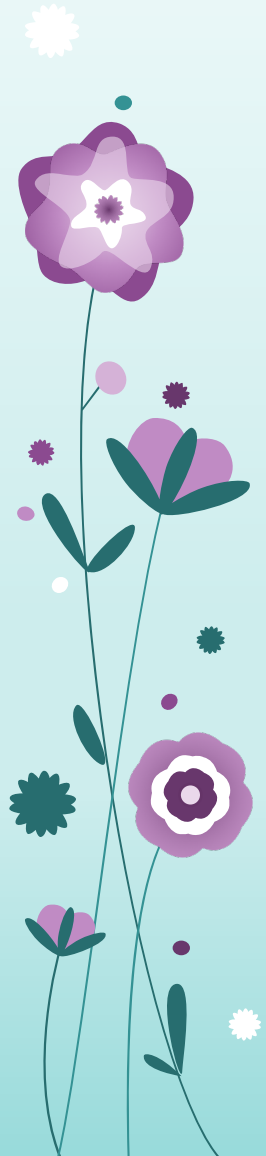
Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

Ahskennon'nia iwe's.

Ahskennon'nia ihre's.

She's doing well; He's doing well



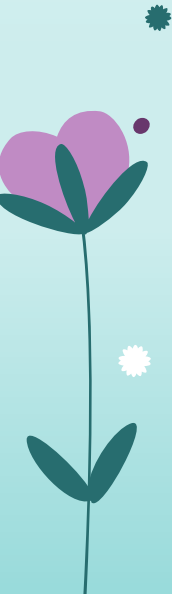
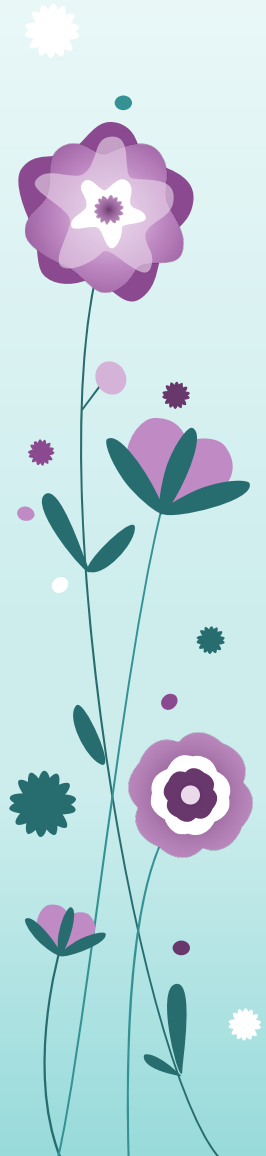
Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

_____ iotiohkou'tenh.

_____ ihotiohkou'tenh.

her clan is..., his clan is...



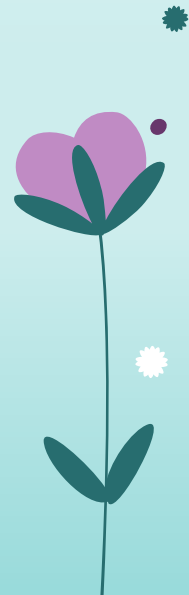
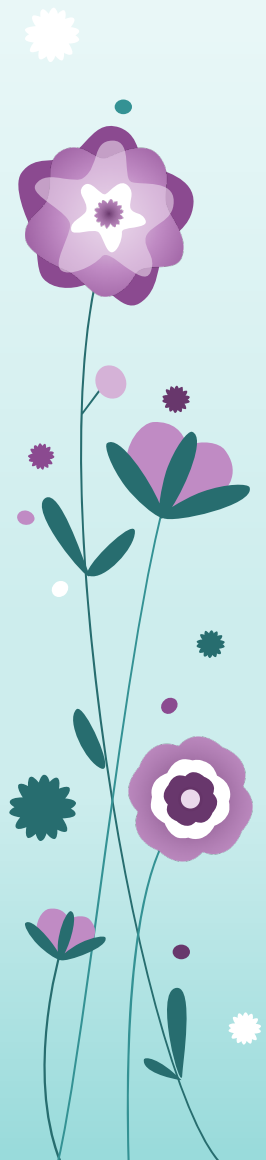
Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

_____ yändare'.

_____ händare'.

She lives, he lives



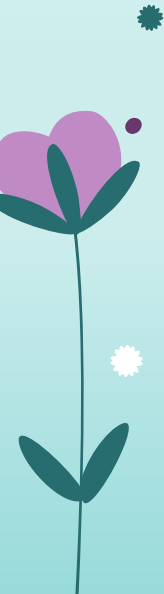
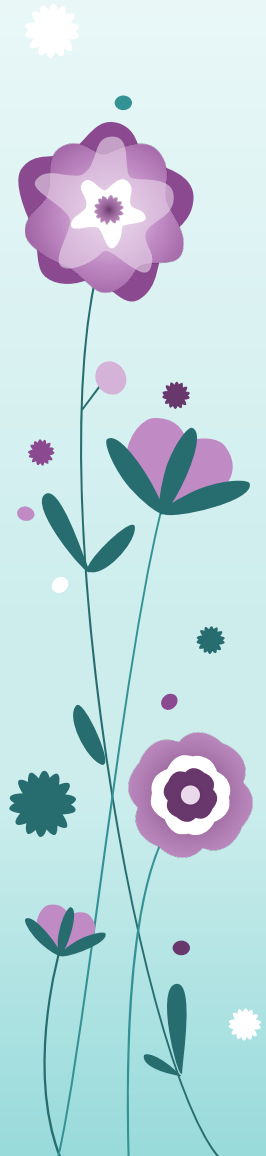
Vocabulary: O'niänih 1

Greetings and useful phrases

_____ etiawehtih.

_____ ethawehtih.

She's from... He's from...



DEVOIR

Introduce yourself in Wendat!

-Your name, where you live, your clan, where you're from, etc...

You can also explore www.languewendat.com

Önenh! Eskwayenh!