

Telling Tales

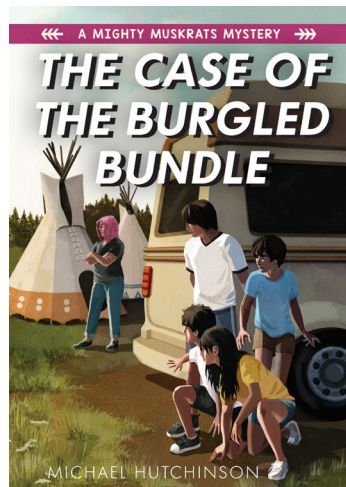
EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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Our thanks to the following partners who made this program possible.



THE CASE OF THE BURGLED BUNDLE

BY MICHAEL HUTCHINSON

Ages: 8-14 | 2021, Second Story Press | **ISBN:** 9781772601664

Michael Hutchinson is a member of the Misipawistik Cree Nation, north of Winnipeg. He is the author of the *Mighty Muskrats Mystery* series for young readers. He has spent much of his career telling the stories of Indigenous peoples and advocating for First Nation families and communities across Canada.

The stars of Michael Hutchinson's series "The Mighty Muskrats" are four cousins from the Windy Lake First Nation. When a memory bundle at the center of a four-day long ceremony is taken, these mystery-solving cousins set out to catch those responsible and help protect Windy Lake's reputation!

Q: Why are the qualities each Muskrat brings to the group, (e.g. Atim is described as fast and physical, Chickadee and Sam are intellectual/emotional and Otter is knowledgeable about Cree culture, bushcraft and tracking), significant? What part could each play in solving the mystery?

Activity: Michael uses this series to teach young Canadians about the history of First Nation's people. We learn about treaties signed between Indigenous nations and Canada. In particular, this story illustrates the importance of ceremony within the Cree culture and highlights the significance of memory bundles. A bundle contains several items (each with a story) that an elder would then unpack and share. Research the history of the Cree nation and consider why these ceremonies promote unity within a nation.

Reflection: Discuss why it's important for elders to pass history and knowledge down through the generations. Using your research, what aspects of Cree culture would be important to make the connection between the head and the heart that Michael describes? And what would the impact of losing a memory bundle be on a community?

Bonus Activity: Michael is a citizen of the Misipawistik Cree Nation in the Treaty 5 territory. It is shown on the map that is included in this package. He mentioned being inspired to create stories to share experiences and situations that reflect those of young people in First Nations. What are some reasons it's important to recognize yourself in the books you read? In today's culture, how can material like this help First Nations and settlers build a better Canada?



FIRST NATIONS AND TREATY AREAS IN MANITOBA

LEGEND

Non-Aboriginal Communities ■
First Nation Communities ●

Treaty 1 (1871)



Treaty 2 (1871)



Treaty 3 (1873)



Treaty 4 (1874)



Treaty 5 (1875)



Adhesion to Treaty 5

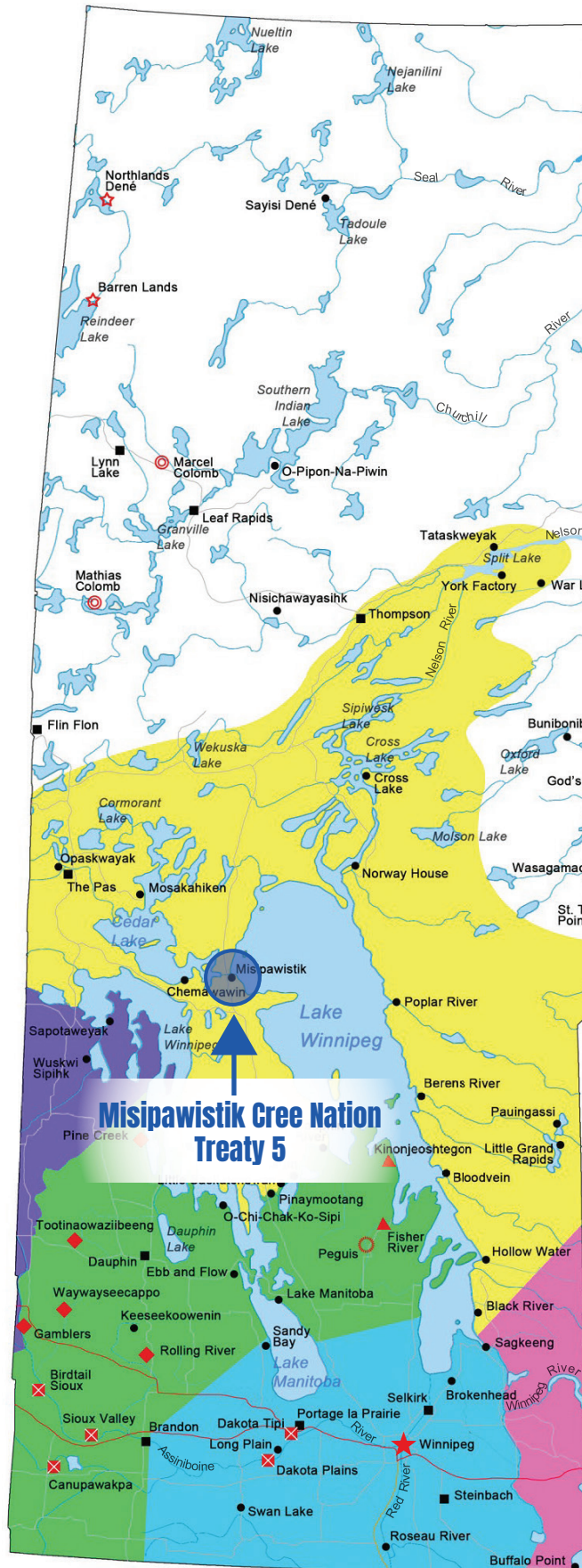


Scale / Échelle 1:3 500 000

0 25 50 100 150 200
Kilometres Kilomètres

Explanatory Notes: The boundaries of the Treaty Areas on the map do not correspond in some cases with a Treaty that a First Nation signed. See below.

- ▲ Fisher River and Kinonjeoshtegon are located in Treaty 2 but are signatory to Treaty 5
- ◆ Gamblers, Pine Creek, Rolling River, Tootinaowaziibeeng and Waywayseecappo are located in Treaty 2 but signed Treaty 4
- ◎ Marcel Colomb was formed from Mathias Colomb. Both are located in Treaty 5 adhesion, but signed Treaty 6
- ☆ Barren Lands and Northlands are located in Treaty 5 adhesion, but signed Treaty 10
- ⊗ Peguis is located in Treaty 2 but signed Treaty 1
- ⊠ The Dakota Nations (The Sioux), consisting of Birdtail Sioux, Sioux Valley, Canupawakpa, Dakota Tipi and Dakota Plains are not signatory to any Treaty with Canada



ACTIVITY SHEET



This is a decorative worksheet template. It features a border of stylized leaves and flowers. At the top left, the words "ACTIVITY SHEET" are written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is a large rectangular area defined by a dotted line, intended for a drawing. Underneath this dotted box are ten horizontal solid lines for writing. In the bottom left corner, there is a small illustration of a flower with a bee flying above it.

ACTIVITY SHEET

