

Anne Marie Flood  
Lenape Project  
Children's Activities and Song

# Tani hech maxkw?

(to the tune of *Where is thumbkin*)

Use pictures of the animals that you can easily “find” and “hide”

A:	Tani hech maxkw?	Where is Bear?
	Tani hech maxkw?	Where is Bear?
B:	Ntapi, ntapi	I am here, I am here.
A:	Keku hech kemikendam?	What are you doing?
B:	Ntashewil sipung.	I am swimming in the river
A:	Ikali a, ikali a	Run away, run away.

You can exchange maxkw for any animal. I have provided some examples, but it is simple to allow the children to create their own.

puchis – nkawihele	Cat – I am sleeping a short time (taking a nap)
teme – nemekike	Wolf – I am barking
mwekane – nuchchulense	Dog – I am hunting birds
chinkwe - newelamehele	Bobcat - I am running well
chemames – ntalakihela	Rabbit – I jump around
chulens – nkenthwi tekening	Bird – I am flying to the forest.

For additional variation, use the names of the children instead of animals. Each child may answer “keku hech kemikendam?” as they please/are able to.

To make the song more interactive, have half of the children sing part A with the teacher, while the other half each choose an animal to act out. The children representing an animal can hide around the area, jumping out for their verse and then hiding again.

# Newixenen kshitay

This is a memory game. The first child must say the phrase below and add an ingredient at the end. Each subsequent child must then repeat everything the previous child said, in order, and add an ingredient to the end. If a child forgets the words, or gives the incorrect answer, he or she is out of that round.

Nkatupwi ok nkatatam kshitay. Newixenen ne kshitay wichi...

ahpon

bread

ahtuwiyus

venison

shukelapon

cake

sikhay

salt

pepel

pepper

tenapes

turnip

hopenisak

potatoes

apelish

apple

tea

ti

kapi

coffee

I have included many items that would not usually be included into a soup. You may either choose to allow all food items (for an easier version of the game), or only those that would typically be found in a soup.

# Telen mimensak

(To the rhythm of *Ten little monkeys*)

This is more of a chant than a song. Subtract one of the children from each verse, until the end, so that you review all numbers through 10.

Telen mimensak

papuwak ahsening.

Kweti kaihele ok lepakek

Notumewa kohesa

ok kohesa luwe:

Kachi lapi

papu ahsening!

Ten children

they play by the rocks.

One falls and cries.

They call her, his mother

and his mother she says:

Don't again

play by the rocks!

When the last child falls down, change the final lines of the chant to:

Mimensak,

xansuning eyok!

Children,

go to bed!

# Xu nutmaxkwehena<sup>1</sup>

This song is also more of a chant. The teacher says each line, then the class repeats it. That way, even if the line is difficult, the children don't have to remember it alone. Each line is accompanied by motions, as stated underneath. Each verse is preceded by the refrain and the song ends with a different section.

refrain:

Xu kutmaxkwehena

We will hunt a bear

(stomp legs as if walking)

Xu ktuhenawena xinkmaxkw

We will catch him a big bear

(hold arms over head to show how big)

verses:

Pena! Anukan!

Look, a muddy place!

(point off to the side)

Atam anukanink!

Let's go to the muddy place.

(stomp making "shlump" sounds, as if feet were getting stuck in mud)

Pena! Sipu!

Look, a river!

(point off to the side)

Atam sipunk!

Let's go to the river.

(stomp making "shlump" sounds, as if feet were getting stuck in mud)

Pena! Teken!

Look, a forest!

(point off to the side)

Atam tekenink!

Let's go to the forest.

(duck as if avoiding branches)

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<sup>1</sup> I sort of invented this word. The Lenape talking dictionary had words such as "to hunt rabbit" and "to hunt birds". I extrapolated from there. If this doesn't work, you can substitute "we hunt him bear", which I believe is "natunawena maxkw".

**Pena! Hakihakan!**

(point off to the side)

**Atam hakihakanink!**

(make swishing noises and hand motions, as if pushing through tall wheat)

Look, a field!

Let's go to the field.

**Pena! Ahchu!**

(point off to the side)

**Atam ahchunk!**

(pretend to climb)

Look, a hill!

Let's go to the hill.

**Pena! Maxkwikaon<sup>2</sup>!**

(point off to the side)

**Atam maxkwikaoning.**

(stomp more carefully)

Look! A bear cave!

final section:

**Ahi piske**

**Newishasi**

(act scared)

**Keku hech?**

(jump)

**Maxkw!**

**Ikalia!**

(stomp feet quickly)

Its very dark

I'm scared.

What is that?

Bear!

Run away!

(repeat all previous motions quickly)

**Halapsi!**

**Atam ahchunk!**

**Halapsi!**

**Atam hakihakanink!**

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<sup>2</sup> I couldn't find the word for cave, so I used bear house.

Halapsi!

Atam tekenink!

Halapsi!

Atam sipunk!

Halapsi!

Atam anukanink!

ku numaxkwehena

mata chich!

We will not hunt a bear

never again!

# Games

## Kishkwit keku hech litke ne wihëlahtikàn?

Line the children up on one side of the field, while standing on the other. The children then ask “what color is the flag today?”, and the teacher responds with a color. The children who are wearing an article of clothing with that color may pass to the other side; those who do not must run. If the teacher tags one of the running children, he or she must join the teacher’s team. Continue, switching sides, until only one child is left. That child gets to be the first of the tagging team in the next round.

## Noodle game

Assign the children each one word (with a picture of the word on a sheet of paper) from a group of words (members of the family, numbers, etc). Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one to stand in the middle, holding a noodle. Call out one of the words the children are holding. The child holding the noodle tries to hit<sup>3</sup> the child holding the appropriate word, while the child holding the first word tries to call out a second word. If the noodle-holding child manages to hit one of the others before they say a new word, the two children switch places.

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<sup>3</sup> Only below the head and above the belt. This shouldn’t hurt anyone.