WESTTA: December - Indigenous Culture:

A variety of resources connecting to Indigenous culture

1. December 21 - Winter Solstice

[What does the winter solstice mean in the Cree tradition? | CBC.ca](https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1121866307957)

[Why it's important to acknowledge the winter solstice, according to a former premier | CBC News](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/winter-solstice-stephen-kakfwi-n-w-t-1.5849505)

[Respect for Winter - Indigenous Winter Experiences (bestwinter.ca)](https://bestwinter.ca/indigenous-connection/)

**Winterfest:** Selkirk, Manitoba students learn from Indigenous knowledge keepers as part of winter festival (2022) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/students-indigenous-knowledge-keepers-1.6664968>

**Looking to experience Indigenous activities Manitoba has to offer?** See Travel Manitoba link below: <https://www.travelmanitoba.com/indigenous-experiences/?utm_source=Google&utm_medium=Search&utm_campaign=2022_TMB_Digital%20Opportunities%3A%20LoKnow%20-%20Fall%2FWinter%20Indigenous%20Experiences_MK%21_CD%21_AM%21%7CAll_MB_AM%21&utm_content=Travel%20Manitoba_Search_AT%21&gclid=CjwKCAiAy_CcBhBeEiwAcoMRHJaXSxsPu0pMqsURoS9BUOTmb4wrDVJAzzHmGu5ePK9PeaXKJYur5xoCwIwQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds>

1. **Indigenous Winter Activity:**

[Dene Hand Games - Northwest Territories (denegames.ca)](http://www.denegames.ca/dene-games/snow-snake-rules.html)

**Snowsnake**

The Snowsnake game was used as a tool for killing caribou during the times when there were no guns. Dene people were intelligent and gifted hunters during a time when killing or not killing a caribou could mean life or death. Often in the early morning caribou would be found lying on the snow covered lakes. It was during this time that the Dene hunters would sneak out onto the lakes, hidden in the early morning darkness and throw their spear-like tool through the snow and into the caribou’s stomach. This required incredible skill, not only to kill the animal but to be able to throw the spear with such amazing accuracy. In order to accomplish this feat time and time again, Dene hunters would practice their throwing techniques with the spear or as it is called today the Snowsnake.

([www.denegames.ca](http://www.denegames.ca))

[Snow Snake - Ojibwe Winter Games 2015](https://youtu.be/piQx9v1gVMY)

[UofW-Lesson-Plan-SnowSnake-Game.pdf (fortwhyte.org)](https://www.fortwhyte.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/UofW-Lesson-Plan-SnowSnake-Game.pdf)

3) **Indigenous Population:**

Did you know that Winnipeg has the highest population of Indigenous peoples in Canada?

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/statistics-canada-indigenous-population-1.6591058>

**The Importance of Long Hair:** Elder explains the significance and symbolism of the traditional braid and long hair. He shares personal stories regarding his grandchildren's struggles to fit in with their hair, as well as an interesting military experiment with Indigenous members and their hair.

<https://goldrushtrail.ca/stories/the-importance-of-long-hair-in-indigenous-culture/>

**Powwow Regalia Explained (Early/Middle Years)**: <https://www.cbc.ca/kids/articles/do-you-know-what-regalia-is>

**Traditional Regalia:** Woman outraged CIBC job application suggests traditional regalia for video cover letter (2022)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/gopublic/indigenous-cibc-job-applicants-traditional-regalia-1.6389541>

**The Battle for Traditional Names:** First Nations parents face challenges registering baby's traditional name under Manitoba's rules (2022)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/first-nations-baby-name-manitoba-1.6356017>

Process of allowing traditional Indigenous names on birth certificates in Manitoba underway:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-traditional-indigenous-names-vital-statistics-act-1.6655297>

**Indigenous Astronomy - Wilfred Buck ‘the star guy’:** is a science facilitator at the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre and an Indigenous [star lore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_lore) expert.

[The Story of the Northern Lights - Wilfred Buck - Bing video](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?&q=wilfred+buck+star+stories&view=detail&mid=EAF71CC0B3C5FF867401EAF71CC0B3C5FF867401&FORM=VIRE&form=VDRVSR&ajaxhist=0)

There are several videos on Bing and YouTube that have animations with Wilfred Buck’s teachings on astronomy.

Podcast - Wilfred Buck: Stargazing tradition (First Nations perspective of science)

[Cree mythology written in the stars | CBC Radio](https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/from-star-wars-to-stargazing-1.3402216/cree-mythology-written-in-the-stars-1.3402227)

Wilfred Buck’s inflatable planetarium (used to teach students)

[Relearning The Star Stories Of Indigenous Peoples (sciencefriday.com)](https://www.sciencefriday.com/articles/indigenous-peoples-astronomy/)

**Significance of Drums:** <https://www.merrittherald.com/indigenous-drumming-a-sacred-art/>

**The Power of Drumming:** The Gifting of Powwow Drums to Northern Manitoba’s Youth (2019)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/indigenous/pukatawagan-drummers-video-plastic-bin-1.5274096>

**Bannock:** Do you know the history of bannock stems from government food rations?

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/bannock>