

Wapos Bay

THERE'S NO 'I' IN HOCKEY episode 1

Episode Description

The Wapos Bay community is celebrating their annual winter festival. Competitive events include a hockey tournament, dogsled races, king trapper, moose calling and bannock making. Contests are an opportunity to show talents and gifts, and being talented in hockey is not just for boys—as young Melanie proves. Competition can also bring out strong emotions when winning is at stake. Working as a team means communicating, cooperating and honouring your commitments to your teammates by doing what you promised. Working as a team brings rewards for the young Talon, T-Bear and Raven, as well as the elder, kohkum.



Key themes

- Communication, cooperation and teamwork.
- Keeping promises and honouring commitments.
- Avoiding gender stereotypes.
- The Cree way of life in this fictitious northern community includes winter celebrations and competitions that test traditional skills such as hunting and trapping.
- Hockey has historical roots among Aboriginals in Canada.

PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES (Refer to Background Information guide for series' preview activities)

- 1 ▶ Introduce the Cree words used in *There's No 'I' in Hockey*.

CREE GLOSSARY

kohkum – grandmother

mushom – grandfather

wapos – rabbit

awus kiya – Go away, you!

ow e ya – ouch

bannock – bread biscuits

- 2 ▶ What is a promise? What can happen if you don't fulfill a promise?
- 3 ▶ What do you like about playing as a member of a team? How have you prepared for a competition before? What was the outcome? How did you feel about the outcome? Was it expected or unexpected? What could you have done differently?

- 4 ► What is a stereotype? *A generalization about a particular group of people.*
What stereotypes exist about what boys and girls can do? How can stereotypes be limiting?
- 5 ► **A)** For northern students: How would you describe your winter environment to someone who has never been here? What do you like about living in your community? What community events do you look forward to?
B) For other students: When you hear about “the North,” what images come to mind? Imagine and describe the northern environment: e.g., *trees, lakes, long winters, short days, snowy, cold, moose, fish.*
How do you think people in northern communities travel in winter? *Dogsled, skidoos, other modern vehicles, planes.*
What do you think people in northern communities do for fun and recreation in the winter? *Winter festivals, bingo, dances, feasts, storytelling.*
- 6 ► Have you ever had bannock? What is it?
Bannock is a staple food of the First Nations and Métis people in Canada. A staple food provides energy and sustenance. See the recipe for bannock on the next page.

VIEW EPISODE

Introduce and View *Wapos Bay: There's No 'I' in Hockey.*

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What promises were made in this episode? What happened when Raven didn't fulfill her promise?
- 2 ► What were some of the teamwork challenges for Raven, kohkum, T-Bear and Talon? How does the title *There's No 'I' in Hockey* relate to teamwork?
- 3 ► Who do you think changed or learned the most? Why?
- 4 ► What stereotypes were shattered in this episode?
- 5 ► **A)** The DeHavilland Beaver aircraft is often referred to as the “workhorse of the North.” Why do you think this is so?
B) For northern students: What kind of work do you see Beaver aircraft doing in your community? How would life be different for you and your family without the Beaver?
C) For other students: Why is the Beaver important for northern communities?
It is the connection to essential goods and services such as food and healthcare. If there are limited medical facilities people have to fly to get to medical care. Food and other important supplies will need to be brought in by plane.



Ron McCrane and Don Redcherry: Every community has its “colourful” characters and Wapos Bay is no exception. In this first episode viewers are introduced to the hockey commentators Ron McCrane and Don Redcherry, the Wapos Bay equivalents to Ron McLean and Don Cherry, who appear on the Coaches Corner feature of *Hockey Night in Canada*.

What makes a character colourful? How do they appeal to a large audience? Don Cherry is known for making outrageous comments, which are an important part of his performance. Do you think he ever goes too far? Give examples.

Who are the colourful characters in your community? Develop a story for a short television feature around a colourful character you know.

PROJECT IDEAS

- Tell and/or write a story of something you have done with your grandmother or grandfather OR a story on the theme of keeping promises or fulfilling commitments.
- Invite a community elder to give a history of community celebrations and events.
- Research and report on the DeHavilland Beaver aircraft.
- Research and report on Aboriginal hockey players such as Sheldon Souray, Jonathan Cheechoo, Wade Redden, Jordin Tootoo, Ted Nolan, Brian Trottier, Gino Odjick.
- Research and report on the origin of hockey in Aboriginal communities.
- Research and report on other First Nations represented in the North such as the Dene.
- Research and report on the use of dogs and dogsleds.
- Research and report on the use of the Cree language among family and community members and/or the syllabic system developed for writing the Cree language.
- Make bannock together as a class, using the recipe below or another recipe:

RECIPE FOR BANNOCK

500 ml flour

5 ml baking powder

1 pinch of salt

80 ml raisins

Mix dry ingredients together in a large bowl.

Make a well in the centre.

Pour in:

250 ml water or milk

15 ml vegetable oil

Mix together and form dough into a ball. Flatten the dough ball and poke holes in the dough. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 20–30 minutes at 375 degrees F.

Invite a parent, grandparent or guest to demonstrate how to make bannock.

Have students make bannock in small groups.

Review the guidelines for teamwork—communication and cooperation: each person has a role to perform.