9/22/24

Borrowed Words

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

All the answers in this word definition game are common English words that came from Native American languages. The name of the tribal language, when known, is in parentheses.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.

2. Read the first definition. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.

3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.

4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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INSTRUCTIONS: All the answers in this word definition game are common English words that came from Native American languages.

QUESTIONS

1. This is one foul-smelling member of the weasel family.
2. Term commonly used in the southern US for a marshy outlet of a lake or river.
3. This nut, similar to the walnut, is native to the southern/central US, ranging from Texas to southern Illinois.
4. A flat sled.
5. The scientific name of this vegetable is *cucurbita*, which is Latin for "gourd." There are many species of *cucurbita*, including the pumpkin.
6. A meeting, often political, of members of the same party. It's also a meeting in which local citizens register their preference among candidates running for office.
7. This Native American word means "child" or "baby." We now use it to mean a type of bag used to carry a baby.
8. A mixture of corn kernels with lima beans and/or other beans.
9. This weapon (and tool) was originally made of stone. Europeans switched the stone to a metal blade.
10. These beads were made of clam shells such as quahog (CO-hog) and whelk, and for a time were used as currency.
11. There is evidence in South America and Mexico that this fruit has been cultivated for roughly 6,000 years. Today, it is largely used in salads, dips, and sandwiches.
12. A dwelling or hut, usually made with skins or bark over a framework of poles.

Note: Other familiar Native American words include *husky, cocoa, igloo, canoe, cashew, chocolate, coyote, ocelot, potato, shack, taco, tequila*, and *tomato*.

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ANSWERS

1. Skunk (Tribal Origin: Algonquian and Massachusett). Other animal names with Native American origins include *chipmunk, opossum, raccoon, moose, caribou,* and *woodchuck.*
2. Bayou (Tribal Origin: Louisiana French by way of Choctaw)
3. Pecan (Tribal Origin: Illinois). The Illinois word for pecan is *pakani*, and it actually refers to walnuts and hickory nuts as well.
4. Toboggan (Tribal Origin: Micmac)
5. Squash (Tribal Origin: Narragansett)
6. Caucus (Tribal Origin: Algonquian). The Algonquian word for caucus is *cau'-cau'-as'u* and means "advisor."
7. Papoose (Tribal Origin: Narragansett)
8. Succotash (Tribal Origin: Narragansett). The Narragansett word is *sohquttahhash*, meaning "boiled whole kernels of corn."
9. Tomahawk (Tribal Origin: Powhatan). The Powhatan word is *tamahaac*.
10. Wampum (Massachusett and Ojibwe)
11. Avocado. (Tribal Origin: Spanish by way of Nahuatl). Little known fact: the Nahuatl word for avocado is *ahuacatl*, which means "testicle."
12. Wigwam. (Tribal Origin: Abnaki). There are key differences between a wigwam, which is a semi-permanent structure and a tipi (teepee), which is made to be easily disassembled and transported.

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