

Name _____

Period _____

MNIGAGA K’A WAKPA CISTINNA
Minnehaha Falls and Creek

1. What have you heard that the word Minnehaha means? What is the incorrect translation for Minnehaha and where did that translation come from? What does Mnigaga mean in Dakota?

Watch “Most Sacred Medicine”

2. What is the most sacred medicine? What is it used for?

Watch “Falls Sideshow”

3. Write Ten words that describe what you see in the pictures during the slideshow. How have the falls changed over the years?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Watch “Non-Dakota Youth Point of View”

4. What was Dominique’s reaction to finding out the falls were sacred? What are your reactions?

5. Dominique says that the events that have happened to Dakota sacred sites remind her of the book *Feed* by M.T. Anderson. What book does it remind you of and why?

Watch “Minnehaha Creek”

6. What do you hear in the video? What do you see? The narrator says that the creek is like going into a church but it is outdoors. To what degree do you agree with this statement?

Listen to “Sisokaduta talks about Minnehaha Falls”

7. As a child, his family did not tell him the significance or history of the falls or the river, but his family picnicked there and it will always be special to him. Have you ever been to Minnehaha Falls? How often does your family go to visit natural places?

Click on “Read More”

Compare the historical photographs and paintings of Minnehaha Falls.

8. What are the differences and similarities between the images? How does the different color palette change the feel of the painting? Would you want to visit these places? How have the falls changed over the years in these images?

Click through to the Flickr site or go to this website:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bdotememorymap/4268986213/>

9. Look at several of the winter photographs of Minnehaha Falls. How are the falls different in the winter compared with the summer?

Click through to the Contemporary Minnehaha Creek Map or go to this website:

<http://www.melchert.org/Minnehaha%20Creek%20Map.htm>

10. How long is the creek? How long does it take to canoe the length of the creek?
11. How deep is Lake Minnetonka?
12. Which canoe access point is closest to halfway between Lake Minnetonka and the Falls?
How can you tell?
13. If you were to canoe from Hopkins Crossroad to W 54th street, how far would you be canoeing? Show your work.

14. What are two things that can change the water level in Minnehaha creek?

-
-

Name _____

Period _____

MNIGAGA K’A WAKPA CISTINNA – ANSWER KEY
Minnehaha Falls and Creek

1. What have you heard that the word Minnehaha means? What is the incorrect translation for Minnehaha and where did that translation come from? What does Mnigaga mean in Dakota?

Answers may vary. “Laughing Waters” is incorrect; it came from Mary Henderson Eastman’s book “Dacotah”. The correct translation is: Mni – water, gaga – curling, Mnigaga – waterfall.

Watch “Most Sacred Medicine”

2. What is the most sacred medicine? What is it used for?

Healing, Purifying, Cleansing, Used in ceremonies.

Watch “Falls Sideshow”

3. Write Ten words that describe what you see in the pictures during the slideshow. How have the falls changed over the years?

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Answers may vary.

Watch “Non-Dakota Youth Point of View”

4. What was Dominique’s reaction to finding out the falls were sacred? What are your reactions?

She was shocked and wondered why she hadn’t learned that. Answers may vary.

5. Dominique says that the events that have happened to Dakota sacred sites remind her of the book *Feed* by M.T. Anderson. What book does it remind you of and why?

Answers may vary.

Watch “Minnehaha Creek”

6. What do you hear in the video? What do you see? The narrator says that the creek is like going into a church but it is outdoors. To what degree do you agree with this statement?

Answers may vary but may include: birds singing, cars going by, birds swimming, steam or fog on the creek, green trees, flowing water.

Listen to “Sisokaduta talks about Minnehaha Falls”

7. As a child, his family did not tell him the significance or history of the falls or the river, but his family picnicked there and it will always be special to him. Have you ever been to Minnehaha Falls? How often does your family go to visit natural places?

Answers may vary.

Click on “Read More”

Compare the historical photographs and paintings of Minnehaha Falls.

8. What are the differences and similarities between the images? How does the different color palette change the feel of the painting? Would you want to visit these places? How have the falls changed over the years in these images?

Answers may vary

Click through to the Flickr site or go to this website:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bdotememorymap/4268986213/>

9. Look at several of the winter photographs of Minnehaha Falls. How are the falls different in the winter compared with the summer?

The water turns to ice and builds up on the falls, making the waterfall much bigger in size. Also all the little places where the water just drips turn into walls of ice. Answers may vary.

Click through to the Contemporary Minnehaha Creek Map or go to this website:

<http://www.melchert.org/Minnehaha%20Creek%20Map.htm>

10. How long is the creek? How long does it take to canoe the length of the creek?

22 Miles long
6-9 Hours

11. How deep is Lake Minnetonka?

30 feet deep on average.

12. Which canoe access point is closest to halfway between Lake Minnetonka and the Falls? How can you tell?

Browndale Avenue. There are mile markers on the map, Browndale is the closest to 11 miles, halfway between 0 and 22.

13. If you were to canoe from Hopkins Crossroad to W 54th street, how far would you be canoeing? Show your work.

Hopkins Crossroad = Mile 17.5
W. 54th Street = Mile 9.5

$17.5 - 9.5 = 8$ miles

14. What are two things that can change the water level in Minnehaha creek?

- The adjustable gates at Gray's Bay Dam
- Rainfall and spring thawing snow