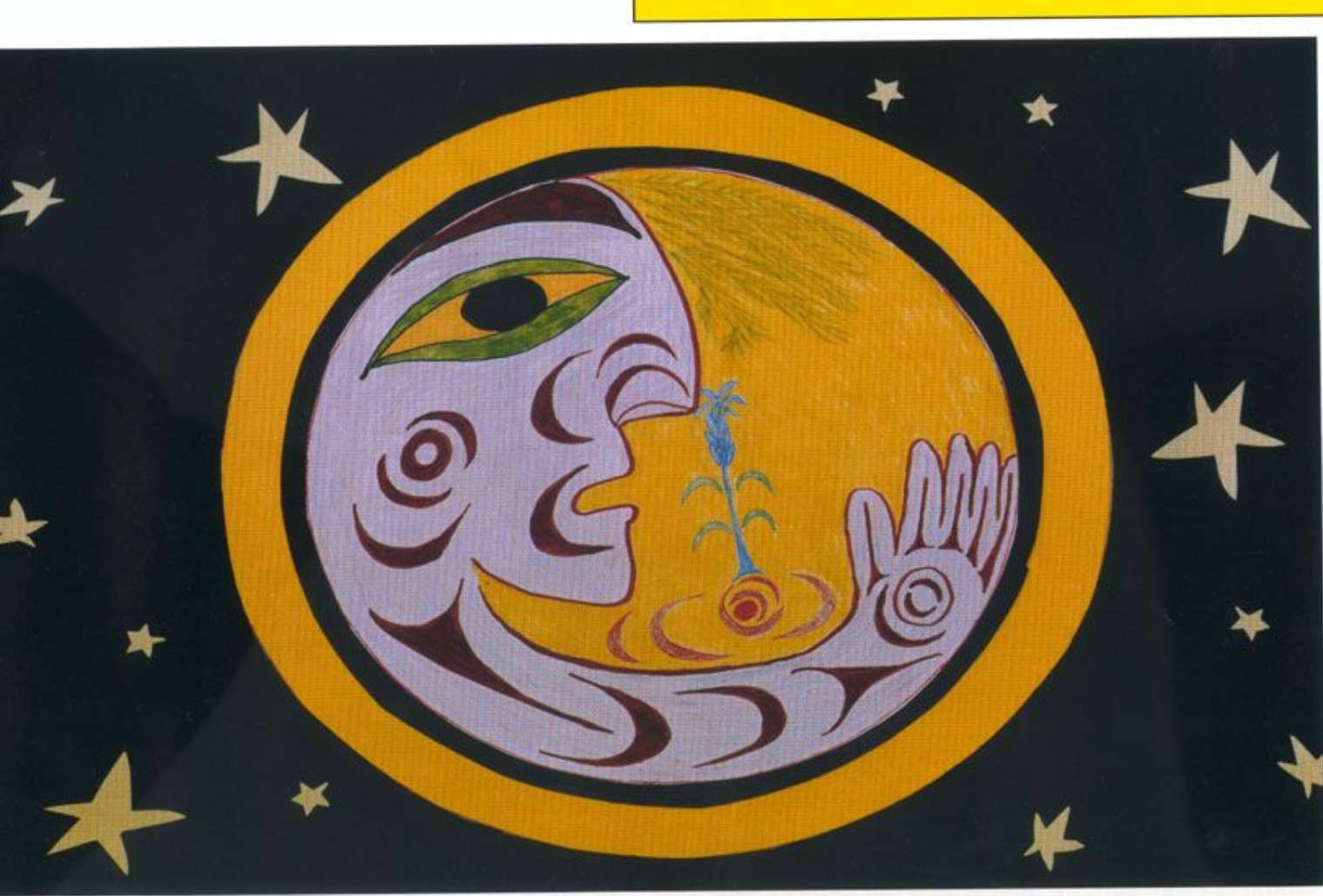


•IY, SCÁCEL! Good day POL students and parents!

•Throughout this slideshow, is written, audio, and visual information about the current moon. Please feel free to read and listen to all of the information in any order, and try out or skip any activities or information at your discretion!

•(The following slides have discussion questions students may want to discuss with someone at home. It is completely optional, but some students who enjoy doing written journals might also want to try this to document their responses, either printed out or in a personal notebook).



[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

What do you see?

What do you notice?

What do you recognize?

Why do you think the artist drew that?



[Click Here](#) to
hear Miss
Adams.

PENÁWEN - Moon of Camas Harvest (May)

[Click Here](#) to hear the pronunciation.

Signs of PENÁWEN:

During the PENÁWEN Moon the WSÁNEĆ people would travel to family locations to harvest KLO,EL (camas bulbs). [Click Here](#) to hear the pronunciation. The KLO,EL was a source of starch to their diet (similar to a potato).



Signs of PENÁWEN:

This was a special time for the **WSÁNEĆ** people as it marked the time for when they could begin travelling throughout their territory again.

*Can you find the **WSÁNEĆ** people (Saanich) in the Coast Salish Territory map on the right?*

[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.



Weather:

- What have you noticed about the weather the last couple of weeks?



[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

PENÁWEN Weather:

It was during this moon that the days and evenings are warm. The rain also becomes less frequent.



[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

Signs of PENÁWEN:

The W̱SÁNEĆ people had traditional grounds (both land and water) which were used at various times of the year. During this moon most families would leave their Winter villages for spring camp.

Did you know there are many traditional territories all across BC? [Click Here](#) to see a map of them all!



Signs of PENÁWEN:

Camas plots had two purposes:

- 1- to harvest blue camas bulb
- 2- to gather fresh gull eggs which would have been laid in the fields where camas grew



[Click Here](#) to read some other interesting facts about Camas. In the next few slides we will find out more information on the camas plant.

Signs of PENÁWEN:

Both XIWE (purple sea urchins) and SQWITI (green sea urchins) were also collected and eaten during this time.

Want to see a purple sea urchin move not just one rock, but two? [Click Here](#) to check it out.



(The following two slides are an example of a scientific writing and drawing journal template that Saseenos students have used previously. It is completely optional, but some students who enjoy doing written journals and drawing might want to try this format, either printed out or in a personal notebook - ***we encourage students to use the photos and info in the powerpoints to do any plant journal activities indoors***)



Indigenous Plant of the Week



Plant name (common name):

SENĆOFEN:

Scientific name:



Some Indigenous uses of the plant:



Other uses:





Indigenous Plant of the Week

_____ TFE NE SNÀ



(My name is _____)

Plant name (common name):

SENĆOŦEN:

Scientific name:



My Scientific Drawing of the plant:



Plant-sketching tips:

Accurate – looks like the plant

Big

Colourful

Detailed – see all the small parts

Explained – with labels, questions, observations

Indigenous plant of the week: Camas
SENĆOTEN: ÍLO,EL

Scientific name: Camassia Quamash



What does it look like? How to Identify It: [Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

[Click Here](#) to hear how to say Camas in SENĆOŦEN!

-Camas can grow to about 70 cm tall.

-The bulb is shaped like an egg and you can find it below the plant about 20 cm deep in the dirt.

-The flower colours can range from pale blue to a deep dark blue.

-The flowers grow in a cluster (or grouping) of usually 5 or more.



Where does it grow?

It usually grows in these types of places:

- Grassy slopes and meadows.
- Well drained rocky outcrops.
- Moist soils.



[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

Traditionally these areas where camas grew were “burned” (intentionally set on fire!) to keep the growth of the Garry Oak* ecosystem.

*we will learn more about the Garry Oak in a few weeks! :)

[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

DID YOU KNOW there is a camas field in Victoria?



Can you tell where this place is?

[Click Here](#) to see where it is!

Traditional Indigenous Uses of K'LO,EL:

[Click Here](#) to
hear Miss
Adams.

Traditional First Nations' (WSÁNEĆ Nations and other Coast Salish) uses of Camas:

Food:

- The camas bulbs were dug up in the summer as they flower, to distinguish from death camas! (we will learn more about this on another slide)
- The WSÁNEĆ people would dig the bulbs up before the flower buds would open and also after they went to seed for different flavours. The WSÁNEĆ women and elders would do the harvesting.
- In the Cowichan valley, the camas bulb was harvested and cooked by the men.
- Traditionally the camas bulb was cooked in steam pits (pit cooks) for respected guests and elders.

[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

How to harvest K'LO,EL:

Materials Needed:

Digging stick, collection bag

1. Using a digging stick or garden trowel, unearth bulbs that are bigger than your thumb.
2. Cover and replant all the rest (smaller camas bulbs).
Harvesting Camas with a shovel can work but sometimes the large shovel can cut the bulbs in half.

[Click Here](#) to see harvested camas and how it can be used in a pit cook!



Camas knowledge from Cheryl Bryce, Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, Lekwungen Territory

[Click Here](#) to watch a video and think about the questions below - answers to the questions are in the “speaker notes”.

1. For the Lekwungen people, whose role is it to harvest and trade camas?
2. Do you recognize the place where Cheryl Bryce is harvesting camas?
3. Cheryl speaks of having to go into the park early in the morning, to avoid being seen harvesting, and then feeling bad about being seen. Can you infer why she does this?
4. What other plants that Cheryl points out that can be found around camas meadows?
5. Why does Cheryl think it's important for young people to be involved in food harvesting?

Death Camas: scientific name - *zigadenus venenosus*

Plant ID/Information:

- It also grows in the Garry Oak Ecosystem environment.
- Its flowers (see right) are quite different from blue camas or great camas, but the bulbs are similar!
- Its leaves and bulb are poisonous to humans and many animals (deadly, as in its name).
- It contains a poisonous alkaloid called zygadenine



[Click Here](#) to hear Miss Adams.

Indigenous knowledge of Death Camas:

- According to WSA NEC (Tsawout) Indigenous Knowledge Keeper John Bradley Williams, death camas could be planted along the edges of the water to deter enemies from coming ashore
- Some experts can tell the difference between death camas and edible camas by feeling the leaves.
- According to Nancy Turner (ethnobotanist who works closely with local nations), it looks identical to edible camas after flowering.
- The similarity of appearance is a problem, because many nations harvest camas bulbs after the flowers have died.
- Identification note: death camas bulbs have a white membrane, while edible camas bulbs have a brown membrane.

Activities to try at home:

Go back to slides 2 or 3 thinking about the Artist explanation below:

Artist Explanation: This moon is the moon of the camas harvest. It is time to dig K'LO,EL. The earth is warming. The camas bulb illustration is shown on the cheek of the moon and the palm of his hand. Can you recognize the Coast Salish shapes? The blue plant with the bulb underneath is the whole camas plant.

Materials Needed: Pencil, Paper

Brainstorm a list of ideas that you like to do with family and friends in the springtime. This could be activities you have been doing recently or in other years. Once you have a list, try to turn your list into different symbols or pictures. Draw those symbols and pictures you create in the shape of the moon just like the artist has done for the PENÁWEN.

Additional Online Websites to Explore:

<https://www.historylink.org/File/11220>

<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/blue-camas/>