

Wapos Bay ALL'S FAIR episode 7

Episode Description

Wapos Bay's new nurse is from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, and she arrives with her son Elue just as the Indigenous Winter Games are getting underway. The organizers have invited a special guest, National Hockey League player Jordin Tootoo, who is also Elue's cousin, as part of the community's Role Model program. Elue promises to be a serious contender at the Games, particularly for T-Bear, who reigns in many events. Talon invites Jordin for supper and even the local radio personalities succumb to his celebrity as they abandon their show to seek out Jordin's autograph. Elue and T-Bear engage in their own competition as Talon and Alphonse take Jordin out with the dogteam. A wolverine spooks the dogs and they scatter, leaving the group stranded in a snowstorm. Jordin is prepared with an oil lamp that keeps them warm while they wait for help. Mushom figures out what has happened and Elue contributes special snow goggles to the rescue effort. Jordin's job of selecting the hockey team captain is made less difficult when the youth recognize the importance of sharing leadership.

Background Information

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, has long been an economic centre for the Inuit. Whaling, fur trade, mining and art are some of the commercial activities of the Inuit, who have developed a variety of technologies that allow them to prosper in a harsh environment.

Hockey has its roots with Canadian First Nations, and there have been many Aboriginal hockey players who have played at the national level. The sport is a vital part of community activities in the North.

The National Hockey League (NHL) generates statistics on each of its players and teams that allow them to be ranked and compared.

Popular culture, through the media, promotes the celebrity of actors, athletes, musicians, business people and artists.



Key themes

- Competition can lead to respect for another's talent and ultimately can lead to cooperation. The phrase "All's fair in love and war" is often invoked to justify cheating. (This proverb inspired the title of this episode.)
- Traditional Inuit societies encouraged skills for males that are connected to hunting. Although hunting is diminishing in many Inuit communities, competitions based on these traditional skills continue to be enjoyed.
- Intimate knowledge of the environment allows Northern people such as the Inuit to survive and prosper in the harshest conditions. Survival stories are an important part of many Aboriginal oral traditions.

PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► What is meant by healthy competition? What is unhealthy competition? What does the title of the film mean?
- 2 ► What are examples of traditional Aboriginal technologies? What are some examples of traditional Inuit technologies? Does technology always make our lives easier and better? What types of technology can save our lives?
- 3 ► Find Nunavut on a map. What events might be included in a winter Indigenous games competition?
- 4 ► Where is Rankin Inlet? Where is Hudson's Bay?
- 5 ► Introduce the Cree words and phrases used in episode 7:

Cree Glossary

Mushom – grandfather

Akosi – That's all

Tansi – hello

Awneen – How are you?

- 6 ► What is the ideal body temperature? What is needed to maintain the ideal body temperature? How long can people survive without a heat source?
- 7 ► What survival skills do you have? Have you ever had to use them? Have you ever had to live without power and electricity? What did you do? How did you stay warm? How did you eat? Have you ever read or heard stories of survival? Does your family have any such stories?
- 8 ► What is a celebrity? Why are we fascinated with celebrities? What do you think it's like to be a celebrity?

VIEW THE EPISODE

Introduce and view *Wapos Bay: All's Fair*.

POST-VIEWING QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- 1 ► Are T-Bear and Elue engaged in healthy competition? What was the outcome of their competition? What is the meaning of "All's fair" in this episode? The proverb: "All's fair in love and war" is often used to justify cheating. Do you think it's a good title for this film?
- 2 ► Where is Nunavut? What is the meaning of Nunavut? (It means "Our land" in Inuktitut.) What knowledge did Jordin possess that helped the group to survive the night? What knowledge did Elue contribute to help with the rescue? What knowledge did T-Bear contribute?
- 3 ► Review the glossary words. How do you say *grandfather* in Cree? How do you say *hello*? *That's all*? *How are you*?
- 4 ► What allowed Alphonse, Talon and Jordin to survive the night on the trapline?
- 5 ► Describe how Jordin Tootoo and Talon's family used language during their meal. What were some generational differences in the use of language?



- 6 ▶ Why does popular culture promote the celebrity of actors, athletes, musicians, business people and artists? What function does celebrity play in our society? Should there be limits to how much access news reporters and photographers have to celebrities? If so what should the limits be?

PROJECT IDEAS

- Conduct research about the history of Nunavut. When was it established? What is the traditional Inuit term for the seal oil lamp that Jordin had? What other Inuit technologies are ideal for surviving the cold?
- What does Jordin Tootoo have in common with Wade Redden, Jonathon Cheechoo and Rene Bourque? What NHL teams do they play for? Research the origins of hockey.
- Research the various contests held in Inuit communities. Which are based on traditional hunting skills? Conduct a Northern skills competition.
- Find answers to:
 - 1) How long can people survive the cold without a source of heat?
 - 2) How much heat is needed to survive the cold?
 - 3) How much heat can a candle generate?
- “Visiting” is an important part of many Aboriginal communities and usually involves sharing food and humorous or entertaining stories. Describe your family’s visiting customs. How far does your family travel to visit?
- Have you ever read or heard stories of survival? Does your family have stories of survival?
- Tell the story from Mushom’s point of view. From Jordin’s point of view. Share your own story of survival with the class. Write a story that combines survival with the saying “All’s fair in love and war.”
- Research the standings for Jordin Tootoo, Wade Redden, Jonathon Cheechoo and Rene Bourque. Explain the math concepts involved in developing the standings.