

# Circles in Harmony

**AIM** ➡ To increase understanding of the cycles that exist in nature.

Following is an important statement by a famous Sioux Medicine man named Hehaka Sapa or Black Elk.

You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round.

In the old days when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation and so long as the hoop was unbroken the people flourished. The flowering tree was the living center of the hoop, and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The east gave peace and light, the south gave warmth, the west gave rain, and the north with its cold and mighty wind gave strength and endurance.

This knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion. Everything the Power of the World does is done in a circle. The Sky

is round and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball and so are all the stars. The Wind, in its greatest power, whirls. Birds make their nests in circles, for theirs is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round.

Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were. The life of a man is a circle from childhood to childhood and so it is in everything where power moves. Our tipis were round like the nests of birds and these were always set in a circle, the nation's hoop, a nest of many nests where the Great Spirit meant for us to hatch our children.



- o Make a list of all the cycles in nature described by Black Elk.
- o In your family group, choose one cycle. Prepare a bulletin board or mural to show your cycle. Use reference books for pictures of animals in a food chain or magazines to show the seasons.

- or -

- o As a group, make a collage (using old magazines) of all the ways we see and use round objects today. (i.e., wheels, clocks, balls, etc.)

#### SKULL RUMMY RULES

- o Reproduce the cards to the right so you have about 40 cards.
- o Using a list with common prefixes and suffixes, choose 4 of each and write them neatly on cards 4 times. You should have 32 cards (4 prefixes written four times each is 16, 4 suffixes written four times each is 16).

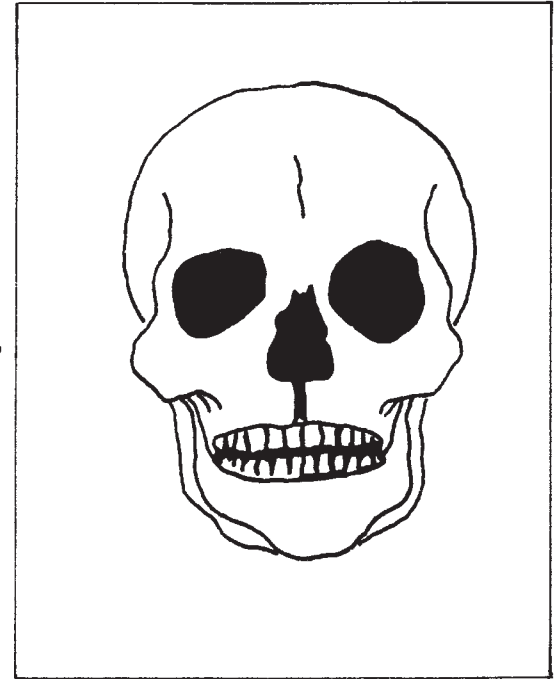
re-	re-	re-	re-	Prefixes
-tion	-tion	-tion	-tion	Suffixes

- o Write base words on the remaining 8 cards.

-produce-	-fine-
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- o Two to four people may play. Deal each four cards and place the remaining cards in a pile with skull side up.
- o Each player draws one card on a turn- trying to collect three of a kind or making a word with a prefix, a baseword, and a suffix.

re-	-produce-	-tion
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Sometimes two prefixes and a base word will make a word. Any real word combination may be used.

re-	in-	-vest-
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- o A card must be discarded each turn and placed word side up.
- o As three of a kind are collected the cards may be laid on the table. If another player has laid three prefixes on the table or three suffixes, the remaining on may be laid down also. The first player to lay down all the cards wins!