

## Anishinaabe Teachings of the Fish (Giigoonh)

We are told that the Fish (Giigoonh) people are the holders of the knowledge from the stars and our connection to the wisdom and medicine above. Many of the stories within our Anishinaabe oral history tell us that we are all a part of Creation, and that each relationship is sacred.

The Fish (Giigoonh) is our connection to the Water (Niibii) and reminds us of our responsibility to stand up and protect all of our relatives within Creation.



## The Fish Clan (Giigoonh Dodem)

The Fish Clan (Giigoonh Dodem) is made up from many different sub-clans. The Turtle (Mshiikenh/Mikinaak) is the head of the Fish Clan. Other branches include the Sturgeon (Name'), Whitefish (Adikameg), Trout (Nemegos), Pike (Giinoozhe), and Mer-people (Nibiinaabe). It is said that the Fish Clan people are the thinkers, scholars, and problem solvers. They also work together with the Crane (Ajijaak) and Loon (Mong) to help resolve any disputes or disruptions within our communities.

Our people have relied on Fish (Giigoonh) for food, medicine, and knowledge from the beginning of Creation. Our direct connection to the well being of the Fish, is tied to our very own health and wellness. It is our inherent right as Anishinaabe to fish and hunt, but also to fight to keep our Water (Niibii) clean, and responsibly manage our natural resources. We must remember to also speak to the Spirit of those plants, animals, or fish that we take, and give thanks to our Creator. It is our responsibility to share with the very young and our Elders when we come back from harvesting, to make sure they have what they need to eat and thrive.

