

Anishinaabe Teachings of the Crane (Ajijaak)

One of our Seven original Clans (Dodem), the Crane (Ajijaak) represents wisdom and equal communication for all Anishinaabe. The Crane (Ajijaak) is also known as Baaswenazhii (Echo Maker) because they would sound their voices to gather our people for Ceremony, Council, and Celebrations. We are reminded by the Crane (Ajijaak) to think carefully and thoughtfully before we speak, and to do so in a clear and honest manner. As Anishinaabe, we believe that the Crane (Ajijaak) is the one who all of our Clans look to for guidance.



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Crane Clan (Ajijaak Dodem)

Oral history tells us of a time long ago, that Gchi Manidoo (Creator) sent the Crane (Ajijaak) to find gathering places for all of the Beings in the Great Lakes area stopping at each along the way. The Crane (Ajijaak) landed for the fifth and final time on a hill overlooking Bahweting, and he called out far and wide to let all of Creation know, that this was the final spot for all to gather and a lodge for all of the clans was built on the waters edge. The members of the Crane Clan (Ajijaak Dodem) often held strong leadership roles within our Anishinaabe communities. The members of the Crane Clan (Ajijaak Dodem) and Loon Clan (Mong Dodem) were given the strong and clear voices to guide our people in a balanced and peaceful way. Historically many of our Ancestral Chiefs (Ogiimaa) here in the Bahweting area were from the Crane Clan (Ajijaak Dodem).

As with all wildlife, we respect and care about our Crane (Ajijaak) family members. Many tribes throughout the Great Lakes work to restore and protect the wetlands surrounding our communities, that are home to the Crane (Ajijaak). It is our responsibility as Anishinaabe to advocate for all of Creation and give these magnificent birds their space when we encounter them in the wild.



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