

# Legends: Raven

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Discipline / Subject: Storytelling, Discussion, and Art

Topic: Native Alaskan Legends and Storytelling

Grade Level: PK-First

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

- *Raven A Trickster Tale From The Pacific Northwest* by Gerald McDermott
- Blocks or logs to make a "campfire"
- Paper
- Pencils and markers

Lesson Summary:

- The teacher will circle her children around a "campfire" to tell the story of Raven by Gerald McDermott.
- Following the storytelling the teacher will lead students in a discussion of the legend of Raven.
- Students will draw a picture of what Raven gave to all the people.

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

Alaska state standards:

The student analyzes content and structure of genres by:

[K] 1.7.1 Listening to and discussing fiction, non-fiction, and poetry

The student makes connections between cultural influence/events by:

[K] 1.11.1 Listening to and discussing stories representing various cultures and traditions (e.g., storytelling, read-alouds, songs)

[1] 1.11.1 Recognizing that stories originate in various cultures

Learning Objectives:

The student will:

1. Participate as a listener in the oral tradition of Native Alaskan storytelling.
2. Listen and discuss the legend of Raven
3. Make connections of the cultural influences that create legends.

Method of Assessment for Learning:

Teacher assessment

Procedural Activities:

Storytelling:

1. The teacher will circle her children around a "campfire" to tell (not read) the story of Raven.
2. Before the storytelling begins the teacher will direct students in how to respond to her question, "Children, would you like to hear a story?" When the question is officially asked the children will respond in unison, "Yes, we would like to hear a story." The teacher lights the candle on top of the blocks or logs and the storytelling begins. (To show proper respect for the storyteller, the children do not speak while the candle is burning.) At the end of the story the storyteller blows out the candle.

**Discussion questions for after the story:**

1. Ask the question, "Do you know what a legend is?"
2. Discuss that a legend is a tale or story passed down from generation to generation. "Legends are usually not true, but are created to explain something about our world. This story, *Raven*, is a legend."
3. "Why is Raven searching for light?"
4. "Do you think this is good?"
5. "How was Raven reborn as a child?"
6. "Could this happen to you?"
7. "Did Sky Chief and his daughter love the Raven-child?" "How do you know?"
8. "What did the Raven-child want?" "Did he want the box or what was in the box?"
9. "What was in the box?" That's right it was the sun! "Could the sun really be put in a box?"
10. The sun was Sky Chief's very special possession. "Did he give it to the Raven-child?"
11. "What happened when Raven-child was given the ball of sun?"
12. "How did Raven play a trick on Sky Chief and his daughter?"
13. Legends often try to explain how things in our world have been created. "What was this legend explaining in a fun folktale?" Of course, it explains how the sun came to give light in our world.
14. "Is it okay to steal?" "What did Raven steal?" "To whom did he give the sun?"
15. "Does it make it okay to steal if you give it away?"
16. "Could this story really happen?" No, it is a legend. It is a fun story to explain how the sun came to light the world with the help of that trickster Raven.
17. "Why would light be important to Native Alaskans?" "Is the sun important to us?"

**After discussion activities:**

1. Show your students the book by Gerald McDermott, *Raven A Trickster Tale From The Pacific Northwest*.
2. Point out the colors that Mr. McDermott used to paint Raven. These are the colors the Native people used in making their totem poles.
3. Demonstrate for your students how you would draw and color Raven throwing the sun into the sky or draw the beautiful box with the glow of the sun coming out. You could assign a specific scene for students to draw or let them choose their favorite.
4. For younger students--have them dictate a sentence to explain what is happening in their picture and the teacher writes the sentence on their work. For older students—have them write a complete sentence explaining what is happening in their picture.

**Materials Students Need:**

- Paper
- Pencils and markers

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

**Other Information:**

Teachers with middle school and high school students could create a Native Alaskan storytelling unit. The final activity would be for each student to be the "storyteller" for one of Raven's tales.

**Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities**

Demonstrating simple step-by-step drawings is helpful to all students.

