

Standard One – Lesson Two

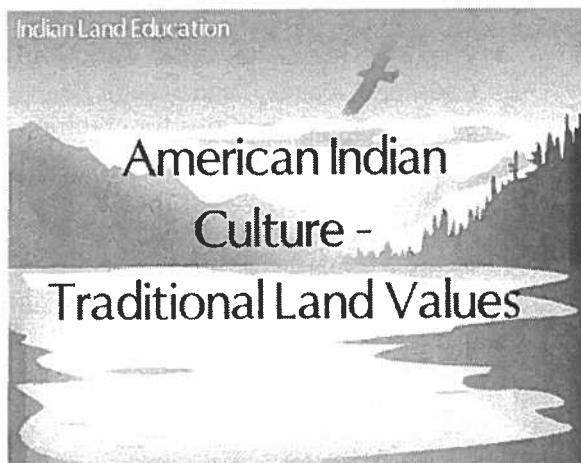
Achievement Goal:
Record an origin story from a tribal elder

Time:
Two class periods

Core:
Cultural Arts, History, Language Arts



Grades: 2-3



Background:

Oral traditions are an important method of remembering tribal stories. Elders have learned the origin stories since they were very young. They pass these stories on to the next generations in times of telling and sharing. Thus, the storyteller is a very important person who communicates ancient cultural beliefs and confirms one's connectedness to the earth and to past and future generations of Indian people.

This lesson is a follow-up to Lesson 1 in this series. If Lesson 1 was not taken by these students, incorporate the reading of books (1) through (4) below into this lesson.

Activity:

- Invite a tribal elder to the classroom to tell an origin story from his/her culture.
- If the elder agrees to being recorded, set up a video or tape recorder and have the tribal elder tell his or her story.
- Ask the students to listen carefully, as one should when elders speak.
- Ask the students to ask the elder storyteller questions about the origin story.
- After the visit, replay the recorded story for the class.
- Stop the replay periodically and discuss key points with the students.
- Ask the students to repeat the story briefly in their own words.

Evaluation:

- Evaluate the ability of the students to listen carefully and grasp the essential parts of the origin story.
- Assess the students' understanding of the exercise through their discussions.

Resources:

1. Bruchac, Joseph and Thomas Locker. The Earth Under Sky Bear's Feet: Native American Poems of The Land. New York: Philomel Books, 1995.
2. Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac. Keepers of the Earth: Native American stories and environmental activities for children. Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum, 1989.
3. Goble, Paul. The Great Race of the Birds and Animals. New York: Bradbury Press, 1985.
4. Goble, Paul. Remaking the earth: a creation story from the Great Plains of North America. New York: Orchard Books, 1996.
5. "Native American Lore Index Page", <http://www.ilhawaii.net/~stony/loreindx.html>
6. "Indian Legends", <http://www.indianlegend.com/default.htm>