

READER'S THEATRE: NATIVE LEGENDS

Unit Overview

The legends of native peoples from around the world are a rich source of literature and oral tradition. The unit contains ten lessons, each featuring a legend from one of the world's native groups.

Index

NATIVE GROUP	LEGEND
Ojibway	The Loon's Necklace
Pueblo	The Girl Who Loved Coyotes
Maori	How the Kiwi Lost His Wings
Iroquois	How Bear Lost His Tail
Okanagan	How Turtle Set the Animals Free
Australian Aborigine	The Flying Emu
Makah	Supper For Crow
Cree	The Coming of the Seasons
Sioux	The Three Tests
Inuit	Tikkatoo's Journey

Lessons Include:

- ☞ Suggested Teaching Strategies /Themes / Answers
- ☞ Readers Theatre Scripts
- ☞ Follow-up Activities
 - Comprehension Questions
 - Fun With Words
 - Investigations
 - Creative Writing / Art Activities

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Emu's appearance at the beginning of the play, and at the end.

Beginning of play	
End of play	

2. In one word, describe Emu's character. _____

3. Describe how Kookaburra went about teaching Emu a lesson.

4. Why do you think Kookaburra didn't feel guilty about what he did to Emu?

Trivial Pursuit

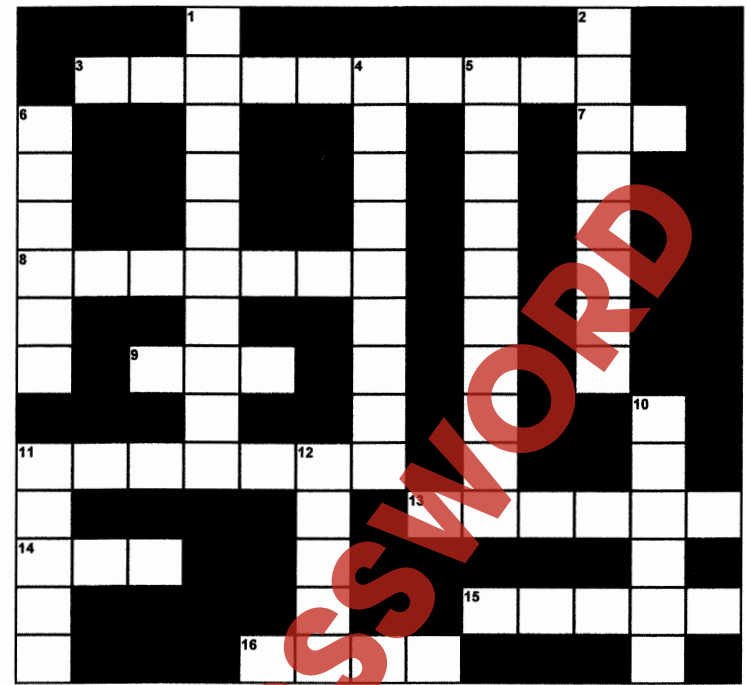
The Emu is a fascinating bird. Try to answer the following questions correctly:

- Oil from the emu is used for medicinal purposes. T or F
- Wild emus in Australia often trample and destroy wheat and other crops. T or F
- A bounty was put on the emu by the Western Australian government. T or F
- The male emu incubates the eggs. T or F
- An emu stands between five and six feet tall. T or F

Art

From the description of the emu at the beginning of the play, draw a picture of the emu. Be sure to colour the emu correctly.

THE FLYING EMU - CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- A bird of Australia
- Did Kookaburra like Emu?
- Reasonable
- Is Emu vain?
- A competition
- An offensive remark
- Flightless Australian bird
- To brag about oneself
- A sharp, curved nail

DOWN

- An expression of admiration
- An Australian marsupial
- Very bright and shiny
- One's image cast back
- Not innocent
- To cause water to fly about
- The past tense of creep
- Not moving

Comprehension Questions (Please answer in Complete Sentences)

- Describe the crisis that faced the Crow family.
- How did Raven trick Mama Crow?
- Describe how Raven tricked the Baby Crows.
- Choose an appropriate word to describe Raven's character or personality. What word would you choose to describe the Baby Crows in this play?

Raven - _____ Baby Crows - _____

Fun With Words

Match the following words from "Supper for Crow" with the correct antonyms:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| a. several | _____ | serious |
| b. hungry | _____ | rested |
| c. mischievous | _____ | lost |
| d. nice / kind | _____ | light |
| e. heavy | _____ | filled |
| f. tired | _____ | none |
| g. overjoyed | _____ | cruel |
| h. found | _____ | sad |



Investigation

The Cree People have lived in the northeastern woodlands for centuries. Research information on the Cree People, informing the reader about such things as their diet, weapons, habitat, dwellings, religion and culture. The finished product should be at least two paragraphs in length.

Creative Writing

"The Coming of the Seasons" tells a story of a group of characters who really worked together to accomplish their goals. Write a story, play or poem about an incident (real or imagined) from your life in which co-operation with others played an important part.

Art

"The Coming of the Seasons" is filled with a fascinating cast of characters. Create a poster featuring one or more of the characters from the play, advertising a speaking engagement they are involved in at a local meeting. At this meeting, they will be telling the audience about their adventures described in "The Coming of the Seasons". Make sure you include a coloured picture and an attractive title advertising the event.



THE GIRL WHO LOVED COYOTES - WORDSEARCH

Find the following twenty words connected with the script you have just read. The words are all in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally - they can be forward or even backward!

G N I H C A O R P P A D L Z I
 J S H E E P B E A U T I F U L
 D L S H B A U D T Y O S O S F
 L F R O D E R U J N I C Y Y D
 N F F W G W S T F A R O P D W
 E T V L V I T I A T I V A F S
 P B G E T D M T G C Z E T I F
 H J P D L I I A R E H R O S B
 E E P D P U O R E R X E K B P
 O H U N G R Y G E Y W D A N H
 D M R I F L E V D M H A G K N
 G S M H E T O Y O C O Z M Y B
 K A C N J F T Q J I G V S Z B
 K O O R B X Z E F I R L E Z C
 H L L W Y J T E E V G N N D Z

THE GIRL WHO LOVED COYOTES WORDSEARCH (Answer)

Find the following twenty words connected with the script you have just read. The words are all in a straight line horizontally, vertically, or diagonally - they can be forward or even backward!

G N I H C A O R P P A D L Z I
 J S H E E P B E A U T I F U L
 D L S H B A U D T Y O S O S F
 L F R O D E R U J N I C Y Y D
 N F F W G W S T F A R O P D W
 E T V L V I T I A T I V A F S
 P B G E T D M T G C Z E T I F
 H J P D L I I A R E H R O S B
 E E P D P U O R E R X E K B P
 O H U N G R Y G E Y W D A N H
 D M R I F L E V D M H A G K N
 G S M H E T O Y O C O Z M Y B
 K A C N J F T Q J I G V S Z B
 K O O R B X Z E F I R L E Z C
 H L L W Y J T E E V G N N D Z

ANSWER KEY

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|
| COYOTE | HOWLED | AMIGUITA | HEARTACHE |
| LONELY | REMOVED | INJURED | GRATITUDE |
| RIFLE | HUNGRY | SHEEP | OVERHEAD |
| AMIGOS | HIND | BROOK | APPROACHING |
| BEAUTIFUL | AGREED | BURST | DISCOVERED |

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|
| COYOTE | HOWLED | AMIGUITA | HEARTACHE |
| LONELY | REMOVED | INJURED | GRATITUDE |
| RIFLE | HUNGRY | SHEEP | OVERHEAD |
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