

NEW WORDS:

although
rotted
elbow
charcoal
pigments
rawhide
suitcase
stingy
screached
scolded

COYOTE AND CROW

Coyote

Developed by the Confederated Tribes
of the Warm Springs Reservation

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plateau Region

STORY TYPE(S): Natural Phenomena/Indian Values

Summary:

Coyote was in a bad mood. Thinking a tree stump was an Indian who would not speak to him, Coyote poked it with his elbow and got stuck. Coyote painted the birds who freed him with beautiful colors. Crow, however, demanded that he be painted the sacred color red all over. Instead, Coyote painted him black.

First, this story shows how bad moods often lead us to do foolish things. Secondly, it offers an explanation of why birds are colored, specifically, why crows are colored black all over. Finally, this story tells that one should be satisfied with what people are willing to give of their own free will.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. This story provides a good introduction to a discussion of Indian Art. Reread and discuss page 15 of *Coyote and the Crow*.

Examine pieces of quillwork, beadwork, dance costumes or other items of Indian clothing and decoration.

Make a list of all the materials that are used to make these things. Community members might be willing to let you use their things or explain them. As an introduction or conclusion you can point out that:

- A. All tribes have their own particular ways of making beautiful things.
- B. Most traditional and often contemporary pieces of Indian art are made from natural materials. They are given life or form through natural elements.
- C. The design motifs incorporate repeated patterns of animals, plants and geometric shapes.
- D. Indian art is functional. It is used for clothing, pots, baskets, eating utensils, weapons and religious ceremonies.



2. Birds, like all things from nature, contributed much to Indian people. They were respected and some were even revered, especially the eagle. It is a tremendous honor to wear eagle feathers, an honor which has to be earned.

Spend time discussing different tribal customs relating to the eagle or other birds. Explore the many ways feathers are used to adorn dance costumes. Encourage students who have outfits to bring them in for display.

Following the student activity card is a list of optional activities which you may want to reproduce for student use.

Student Activity Card(s):
See Indian Suitcase Card (14A-14B).



COYOTE AND CROW

- 1** Collect materials to try making your own dyes or paint. Paint a picture. Make a color chart showing how different colors are blended to create new colors.
- 2** Collect pictures of different types of birds found in your community. See if you can make drawings of as many as you see. Label the pictures with their correct name.
- 3** Collect as many feathers as you can and try to find out what bird they are from.
- 4** Write your own story of how a specific bird became colored the way it is. Read *Blue Jay-Star Child* or *Owl's Eyes* and discuss how these stories describe how birds look the way they do.
- 5** Retell this story using pictographs on a sheet of brown paper. Tear it to look like a hide. (See Wintercount Card)