

**NEW WORDS:**

obsidian  
 stomach  
 carcass  
 natural  
 quills

**HOW COYOTE TRICKED PORCUPINE****Coyote the Trickster**

Developed by the Burns Paiute Reservation

**GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:** Plateau Region

**STORY TYPE(S):** Indian Values

**Summary:**

Porcupine asked Elk to take him across a river in Elk's stomach. When the two animals arrived on the opposite bank, Porcupine killed Elk. Seeing Porcupine preparing to eat Elk, Coyote offered Porcupine his knife and proposed a contest, the winner of which would get all the meat. Porcupine agreed and both tried to jump the farthest over Elk. Coyote of course won, leaving Porcupine nothing for all his efforts.

This story again reinforces the idea that bad behavior comes back to us. It is interesting to note that part of the original draft of this story which has been left out details how Elk had been known to ask for favors or payment to take animals across the river and would often demand more when he got the animals mid-stream. Elk would threaten to let the animals drown if his demands were not met. Knowing this Porcupine then devised his plan to kill Elk.

For whatever reasons, trying to **get even** is never really justifiable. Though Porcupine took it upon himself to punish Elk, he was likewise punished. He did not receive the rewards he had hoped for.

**Teacher Guided Activities:**

1. The thought developed in this story is similar to several other stories already discussed. Review these with your students, making comparisons where appropriate.



2. Assign each of the Four Winds groups one of the following stories to present at the Council Lodge using puppets, role playing or filmstrips, etc.

*The Otter and the Beaver*  
*Coyote and Cougar*  
*Coyote and the Two Sisters*  
*How Coyote Tricked Porcupine*

Allow groups time to prepare for class presentations and rehearsals. You may want to present this activity to parents or other classes and include an introduction which explains about the stories overall and the character of Coyote.

**Student Activity Card(s):**  
**See Puppets and Stuff Card (20A-20B) and**  
**Filmstrip Making Card (3A-3B).**