

**NEW WORDS:**

**couple**  
**ravens**  
**swallowed**  
**overhead**

# COYOTE AND RAVEN

## Salish Coyote Stories

Developed by the Salish (Flathead) Cultural Committee  
of the Confederated Salish/Kootenai Tribes

**GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:** Plateau Region

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

### Summary:

Coyote saw ravens flying overhead and noticed that one was carrying a piece of grease. Coyote chased the bird and tried to trick the Raven into speaking so that he would drop the grease. When Raven finally spoke the grease dropped and Coyote swallowed it.

This story offers a possible explanation of why so many tribes have stories about Coyote. Coyote continued on from here to make his way to another tribe.

### Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Raven lost his piece of grease because he allowed himself to be pressured into a response. It is often difficult to resist pressures especially from friends.

Discuss with your class reasons why someone would not want to yield to outside pressures. What happened to Raven?

Divide the class in half. Tell one-half of the class that they are to talk a partner into doing something. They can tempt them with anything they want to try to get them to do something. Tell the other half of the class that a partner is going to try and talk them into doing something. Their purpose is to learn to say no and mean it. One way they can do this is to be a stuck record and just keep replaying, no, no, no, no thank you, no . . . or to think of other ways of saying no. Allow five minutes for this. Switch groups. Discuss the frustration of being the convincer and the resister. What arguments were the most convincing?



2. Have students write about a time when someone may have talked them into doing something which they didn't think was a good idea at first. What happened? Was it better to make up one's own mind?

**Student Activity Card(s):**  
**See Firetalk Card (1A-1B).**