

NEW WORDS:

moccasins
married
blindfold
culture
comic
assembled
yonder
legendary
generation
incident
situation
emphasize
appreciate
versions
breechcloth

NAPI'S JOURNEY

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians of the Blackfeet Reservation

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Natural Phenomena/Indian Values

Summary:

Napi is a comical Blackfeet cultural figure who is responsible for creating much of the natural environment. This book is a series of adventures beginning with how he gave rocks different colors and textures. He is also said to be the cause of why eyes get sore from having dust in them and why elk horns are used for decorations. Napi dried fat, gave coyote a pretty voice and created mountain lion's short stubby face and long legs and tail. He put knots in trees and contributed to the reason why people may lose their eyesight. Napi also made eyes different colors.

The adventures of Napi are amusing, yet one can easily see how often Napi's foolish behavior is punished.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Discuss the different things Napi did to the rocks including the colors he gave them. Ask each student to choose his or her favorite color, then using the book *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*, read the selection on either the color black or brown since few children usually choose these colors.

Read the poem several times if necessary and ask students to identify everything that sounds that color, smells that color, tastes that color or feels that color. They will have no trouble with what looks that color. Then tell students to write their own color poems, being sure to include things from all senses. To give them a format suggest that each line begin with; **Black** is the (sound of, smell of, taste of, etc.).



2. Have students pantomime different parts of *Napi's Journey*. Put on a series of Napi skits at parent meetings or invite parents to a theatre of your own.
3. We depend on our senses a great deal. Have students compare what Napi's wife did to what the woman did in *Assiniboine Woman Making Grease*.

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 Paints and Earth Bags Card (23A-23B).



NAPI'S JOURNEY

- 1** Make a rock collection. Try to find rocks which looked like ones which Napi might have made.
- 2** Make a rock person by gluing rocks together. Paint eyes on your rock.

Give your rock a name and keep it for a pet.
- 3** Make a list from the story of all the things Napi created. Write or tell your own Napi story to describe how something came to be the way it is. Have someone read it. Was the story clear? Rewrite the story using the readers suggestions. Give it to someone else to read and get their ideas on the story.
- 4** Make a cartoon or comic strip of the adventures of Napi.
- 5** Think of how much you use your eyes and ears. If you lost one of these what would you do? Write or tell what you might do. Choose either your eyes or your ears. What is more important to you, what you see or what you hear? Why?