

NEW WORDS:

porcupine
 protection
 magpies
 supposed
 eventually
 attempting
 regain
 studded
 delighted
 pierced
 appropriate
 customary
 reclaim
 possessions
 burial
 lodge
 leggings

THE LODGE JOURNEY

The Lone Pine Tree and The Lodge Journey

Developed by the Blackfeet Indians

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Indian Values

Summary:

Several old ladies decided to use the hide on a burial lodge of a dead chief to make moccasins and leggings. They proceeded, ceremoniously dancing and singing, toward the lodge where one of their grandsons had hidden himself. When they finally secured the piece of hide they wanted, tearing a hole in the lodge, they saw a person standing there. Fearing it was the ghost of the dead chief, the old ladies ran, pushed and crawled their way back to camp. They learned, however, that they had been tricked and returned for the hide.

In their second attempt they were frightened again when a crow flew out of the lodge but they left with hide in their possession. That night they dreamed that the dead chief was bothering them and decided finally to return what they had taken. Again as they looked into the lodge they were frightened. This time the eyes they saw were those of a porcupine but the old ladies vowed never to bother the burial place again.

Most people accept the fact that stealing is wrong. Many, however, assume once a person has died that the possessions of that person are available for the taking. Many Indian people place valued articles with a person at death, acknowledging that the spirit lives on and takes the same pleasure in having such articles. The old ladies in this story were punished repeatedly for their thievery until they learned to show respect for the dead chief and his possessions.

Teacher Guided Activities:

1. Ask students why the grandson had done what he did? Was it a good thing to do? What is a practical joke? How might his joke have been harmful to the old ladies?

Make a list of practical jokes which may be harmful to others (i.e., pulling chairs out from under someone, substituting salt for sugar, etc.)



2. Research the law in your locality concerning grave robbing. Discuss this. Compare this with laws concerning obtaining Indian artifacts.



3. Talk about the impact grave robbing has had on Indian tribes in the past and what tribes are doing now to protect the burial grounds of their ancestors. This is particularly important to unrecognized (by the federal government) tribes of Oregon. Why? Why do people today put flags and flowers on graves?



4. Smoked buffalo hides are valued for their weather resistant qualities. Smoked hide does not absorb moisture from rain, mud or snow as much as unsmoked hide. Every part of the buffalo was used for a functional or decorative purpose.

One of these functional uses is for teepees. The portions of hide near the smoke hole of a teepee are smoked naturally because of the cooking fire inside. As this part of the hide shows more wear and is blackened, the hides of the teepee cover are replaced and the old smoked hides may be used for winter moccasins and leggings.

Make lists of as many uses for leather as possible. Have students make articles out of leather (i.e., belts, wallets, hair ties, chokers, etc.).

Students Activity Card(s):

See Teepee Creepers Activity Cards (6A-6B, 6C-6D).

Using the **Teepee Creepers** student activity card, either have students role play this story, or make a puppet play out of it. These cards may be used repeatedly.