

NEW WORDS:

mudhen
decent
swallowed
wickiup
elders
imaginary
originally

HOW ANIMALS GOT THEIR COLOR

Developed by the Klamath Curriculum Committee

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plateau Region

STORY TYPE(S): Natural Phenomena

Summary:

According to this Klamath story all animals were originally one grayish color. A village of people and animals was attacked by a monster called Ganoks. Fearing they would be eaten by this monster everyone left the village except Chief Jalydiumps who was too large to be carried to safety. In order to prove who was the strongest, the chief challenged the monster to a contest consisting of eating the most hot rocks. The chief, however, only pretended to eat the rocks while the Ganoks ate so many he died. Seeing the defeat of the monster, everyone returned and Jalydiumps gave parts of the monster's colorful fur to the various animals.

Because Jalydiumps was too big to be carried away he was faced with the prospect of trying to make the best of a bad situation. It was his quick thinking and initiative which saved the day.

This story also comments on the results of greed. The more the Ganoks ate the sicker he got. One does not always have to accept a dare or challenge. Often this may prove to be a foolish undertaking.

Finally, jumping to conclusions like the tiny bird did may result in spreading misinformation. One should take time to get all the facts.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Discuss the challenge Chief Jalydiumps made with the Ganoks. In pairs have students write up a list of five dares or challenges and see if they can get another team to accept the "I can do anything better," challenge.

The challenges could involve any subject matter, material or athletic competition. Have each team tally how they do against their opponents. After each team has challenged all other teams, see which team is the winner overall.



2. Have students write reports on various animals and how their colors adapt to fit their environments and seasons.

Try making an animal chart showing multicolor hairs along with short hair, long hair, etc. Are there other classifications that can be discovered among the animals selected for representation?



3. Make a set of spelling cards with the names of peoples, tribes, animals or birds. Make a box, shoe size or bigger, with the Ganoks attached to it. Paint his mouth open. Feed the monster only correctly spelled words (see **Proclaim Your Rarity** activity card, side 13-B).



4. Turn *How the Animals Got Their Color* into a play. Present it to other classrooms in your school or at an assembly. Write and sing the song that Jalydiumps sang after he killed the monster.

Student Activity Card(s):

See Proclaim Your Rarity Activity Card (13A-13B)