

NEW WORDS:

- desperate
- rampaging
- cactus
- prairie
- creature
- incident
- ravine
- liable
- appeared
- shoulder
- confused

BROKEN SHOULDER

Developed by members of the Gros Ventre Elders Board from the Fort Belknap Reservation

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Natural Phenomena

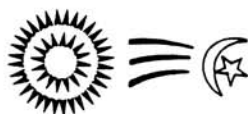
Summary:

A group of Gros Ventre (Grow Vont) children were playing bear (a kind of tag) when the young girl who was it actually became a real bear. The brothers of the girl stayed with her but the rest of the children ran for safety. Men from the camp wounded the bear and all but the brothers left. The brothers were concerned for their sister and hoped to find some way to help her when a man appeared to them suddenly to give them advice and three wishes. He told them that there was no hope for their sister and that they must flee for their lives, using the wishes to help them escape. The enraged bear chased the boys who eventually exhausted all their wishes. Using a magic ball, they finally escaped by going up into the sky to form the Big Dipper.

Though the brothers showed great loyalty to their sister, the mystical powers working against them proved to be too much. Their lives, however, were spared. Bears are considered powerful and sacred to some tribes. Because of its huge size and awesome physical power it was also thought to possess supernatural powers. For all these reasons it is a respected animal.

Teacher Guided Activities:

1. This story provides a natural introduction to a unit on the stars. Observe the North Star and the Big Dipper. Have students draw a diagram of this star structure. Show students other star formations. Have students write their own legends about one of these star formations or research the story behind one described in Greek mythology.



2. Introduce the Mayan calendar and the scientific observatory in Mexico as developed by this group of Indians thousands of years ago. Explore the use of stars as direction finders.



Student Activity Card(s):

See For Heaven's Sake Activity Card (16A-16B)