

NEW WORDS:

buffaloberry

hollered

hatchet

gnaw

captive

HOW THE BIG DIPPER AND THE NORTH STAR CAME TO BE

Developed by members of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Natural Phenomena

Summary:

One of the youngest of seven brothers got a thorn caught in his hand while out hunting. To his surprise a little girl popped out of his hand where the thorn had been. He and his six brothers raised the girl who grew rapidly.

She and her pet beaver were taken by a monster across a lake and were fattened for his supper. On the day the girl was to be eaten, the monster's grandmother helped her escape. The girl fled to a stone tepee where a man with two mountain lions saved her and eventually (in the form of an eagle) led her home to her seven brothers again.

In order to protect her, the brothers and the girl went into the sky and became the Big Dipper and the North Star. There they have stayed safe from all monsters on earth, to help guide people who are lost.

Teacher Guided Activities:



1. Though this story attempts to explain the origin of the same set of stars as the story *Broken Shoulder*, it is entirely different. Have students compare the two stories. They may be encouraged to try an original story of their own about the same star formation.



2. Read *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll and ask students to draw the Jabberwocky monster. Have students locate other monsters described in other stories and compare which seem most ghoulish and tell why.



3. Have students write a monster story or tell a continuous story in which students seated in a circle each take a turn continuing the same story.

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