

NEW WORDS:

exception
protect
prairie chicken
sage hen
mourned
actually
buffalo wallow
starving
refused
satisfied
rawhide
buckskin
equally

DUCKHEAD NECKLACE

Duckhead Necklace / Indian Love Story

Developed by members of the Assiniboine Elders Board of the Fort Belknap Reservation

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA: Plains Region

STORY TYPE(S): Natural Phenomena / Indian Values

Summary:

Duckhead Necklace was the son of a woman who married a star. His mother grew homesick after living in the sky awhile and tried to escape through a hole in the sky. Her husband discovered her and killed her, leaving her young son to care for himself. Eventually, the young boy adopted an old woman for his grandmother. She gave him his name, taught him many things and tied a duckhead around his neck for protection.

Duckhead Necklace killed a whale which was his grandmother's transformed husband. Later on a walk he was invited into a tepee in which some snakes tried to kill him. His duckhead, however, saved him and he punished the snakes by condemning them to crawl on the ground always. He later made the snakes' noses flat.

His travels took him to villages in which people were living with bears and one in which people were living with white birds. In both cases the animals became greedy and took all the food, leaving the people to starve. Duckhead Necklace punished the bears by taking away their speech and by sending them to live in the mountain forest. He also took speech from the birds and colored the birds black.

As in many Indian stories misdeeds were punished. This story gives an explanation of several different natural phenomena.

Teacher Guided Activities:

1. Discuss the definition of stereotypes. Give some examples. Read page four. Do you think that a girl would always choose a doll or that a boy would always choose the bow and arrow? Some students with younger brothers and sisters could experiment with this idea on their own. What are other ways in which men and women have become stereotyped? Ask students to look at the magazine advertisements to find examples of stereotyping.





2. Ask students to choose an animal or bird and create a story to explain where it lives, how it moves or what it looks like. Have them make booklets with illustrations. Have students exchange books and read aloud to each other.

3. Some Indians have believed (and some still do) that people could become animals. Have students choose an animal that they could become and describe themselves as that animal. Ask each to include some of the following things:



- Why they would like to be that animal
- What they see, hear, smell and taste
- How they feel
- Where they go
- What they think about
- How they adapt to the weather changes

Student Activity Card(s)
See Mother Earth Activity Card (17A-17B).