

# Moon

*Developed by Members of the Muckleshoot Planning Committee*

**Geographical Area:** Coastal Region

<b>Vocabulary:</b>	abiding cedar boughs gnawed curse Snoqualmie Falls cataract weir pelted entrails violent singed destruction	Muckleshoot Puyallup maidenhair fern pregnant grieved osprey flakings exulting caressed transformed image skunk cabbage	prairie suspicious summoned ceased console reveal cleansed pondered generation multitude portion wild artichoke
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**Reading Motivators:** Discuss why some foods grow wild in some areas and not in others. Ask students to speculate on why this is so. What is habitat?

For some tribes there is a story telling cycle. Stories were to be told only in the winter season. Stories like *Moon* have many stories within the one story.

Discuss how things were created according to different cultures and beliefs.

**Discussion Topics:** Discuss the Changer's role in creating the environment as we know it. Compare this version to geological evolution past and present.

Compare death superstitions in the story with local practices or current funeral custom.

Discuss how legends help explain the creation of landmarks.

Discuss and locate examples of uses of cedar bark (clothing, baskets, twine, fire starters).

**Follow-up Activities:**

1. Divide the story into episodes. A creative drama activity can be done with each episode. Assign small groups to work on each episode. Several scripts are already prepared. Perhaps students could roleplay the first two episodes and use reader's theater with the last two.

I. The story of the two sisters

II. The Kidnapping and rescue of Moon

### III. Moon the Changer

#### IV. Moon's return/the story of light

2. Have students prepare science reports on various topics in the story:
  - a) eclipse
  - b) erosion
  - c) sound
  - d) salmon
  - e) migration
  - f) plants (maidenhair fern, skunk cabbage, sand rush, wild artichokes)
  - g) animals (otter, mink, wild cat, deer, etc.)
3. Have students write legends of how something was changed or created.
4. Have students make a mural of what the sky world might look like. Illustrate the first story of the two sisters.

## How The Length of Daylight Came To Be The Story of Ant Woman and Bear (Adapted from *Moon*)

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*Narrator*  
*Ant Woman*

*Bear*  
*Dokweebah*

**Narrator:** In the beginning there was only darkness, no light. During this time the ant people had a hard time. When they went hunting, some could not find their way home. In the darkness a huge monster Bear would steal their babies and eat them. The ant people had no protection and the monster would disappear in the darkness. Finally, little Ant Woman decided to do something.

**Ant Woman:** I shall go to Dokweebah, the Changer, our creator. I will ask him for light. If we had light we could see our way home from hunting. We could see to do our work. We could see the monster Bear who eats our children. Yes, daylight is the answer to all our problems. We need daylight every day instead of every year.

**Narrator:** Bear heard of Ant woman's desire for light every day and became angry. He would go to Dokweebah, also. Night was what he wanted.

**Bear:** I really love to sleep. For me night is the answer. I will follow Ant Woman and ask the Creator for more darkness. We should have daylight only once a year.

**Narrator:** When Ant Woman and Bear finally reached Dokweebah, they made their wishes known.

**Ant Woman:** Oh, Dokweebah, please give my people light. We cannot see to work. We cannot see to hunt. We cannot see to protect our babies. Please Dokweebah, help us.

**Bear:** *(Steps up before Dokweebah can respond.)* Don't listen to Ant Woman! I want darkness all year. I need my sleep. I like it when it is dark and cool.

**Dokweebah:** This is not an easy decision. Therefore, we shall have a contest. Both of you must dance. The winner's wish will be the prize.

**Narrator:** All the people prepared for the contest. They were eager to see who would win. They prepared all kinds of food for the event. As soon as Bear saw the food, he forgot about dancing.

**Bear:** What a feast! All my favorites! Salmon! Huckleberries! Frybread! And bitterroot!

**Narrator:** Bear ate and ate. (*Bear song*) Then he began to dance. As he danced he began to get sleepy. Bear began to dance slower and slower.

Then it was Ant Woman's turn. She put forth all her energy. She didn't eat at all between dances.

**Ant Woman:** My people really need light. I must dance as long as I can. (*Ant Woman song*)

**Narrator:** Ant Woman danced, and as she danced, she tightened her belt so that her stomach might feel more full.

Bear then got up to dance, but first he stopped for just a few more bites.

**Bear:** Oh, these huckleberries are hard to resist. Maybe just one more helping of salmon and then I'll taste some of that smoked eel. Pass me some fry bread!

Well, it's time for my dance. (*Bear song*)

**Narrator:** Bear became more and more sleepy. He was really full from eating so much. He danced slower and slower. When he finished he sat down to eat, just a little bit more.

**Bear:** Give me some of that dried salmon!

**Ant Woman:** Now it's my turn. I will really dance hard.

**Narrator:** As Ant Woman danced she tightened her belt even tighter, then sat down again to pray to Dokweebah. It was Bear's turn again.

**Bear:** My turn already?! I've hardly eaten **any** chokecherries. (*Bear sighs, yawns and gets up to dance. He dances slower and slower.*)

**Narrator:** The contest continued for seven days until Bear became so full and sleepy that he could hardly move.

**Bear:** Dance? Is it still my turn? Anymore fry bread? Maybe I'll just pause for a moment . . . (*Bear falls asleep muttering.*)

**Ant Woman:** I've won! I've won! That means I get my wish. We will have daylight every day. Oh thank you, Dokweebah!

**Dokweebah:** Ant Woman has won, (*Bear wakes up*) but I love Bear also. Therefore, I will create day and night; day so that it will be light for the ant people to see to hunt and work, and night for the bear people to sleep. Bear can sleep every winter when it is darkest and be out in the summer when it is light again.

**Narrator:** Because of her dedication, Ant Woman won her wish. Even today we have both day and night thanks to Ant Woman. And to this day, the Skokomish call her Kla Klu Tsup which means "cinched waist."

**Ant Woman:** The moral of the story is: If you snooze you loose!

# Sunlight and Moonlight

## (Adapted from *Moon*)

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*Narrator*  
*Moon*  
*Sun*  
*Woodpecker*  
*People*

*Yellowhammer*  
*Raven*  
*Coyote*  
*Hummingbird*

**Narrator:** Long, long ago things were not as we know them today, The animals were like people and there was no sunlight or moonlight. It was dark all the time. There was a man named Moon, The Changer, who had special powers and was able to change things. He made things as we know them to be today. Moon was the one who made sandpipers, sawbill ducks, mallards, deer, mink, maidenhair fern, skunk cabbage, wild artichoke, sand rushes, beavers, cats, fire and many other things.

One day Moon decided there should be light during the daytime and light during the nighttime. But he did not know who should make the light. Moon gathered people from everywhere to display their powers.

**Moon:** I have decided that we need light both during the day and during the night. My brother Sun and I will hold a contest. You people shall be the judges. Whoever best satisfies you will be chosen.

**Yellowhammer:** I will go first. I, Yellowhammer, should be the one to give light by day. Watch as I travel across the sky!

**People:** Yellowhammer has tried but he did not do well. There was not enough light. He does not satisfy us. Who is next?

**Raven:** I am Raven. I will try to give light at **night**. I'm sure I can do at least as well as Yellowhammer.

**People:** Oh, Raven will never do! There is a shadow that covers the earth. We cannot see anything. Raven cannot be the light at night. He is much too dark! He does **not** satisfy us.

- Narrator:** The next to try as light were Coyote, Woodpecker and Hummingbird.
- Coyote:** I will try out as the light at night. I really like the view from up high. I will take my time, moving slowly across the sky. *(Pause and look around)* What a view! Look at the trees way down there! And the little people! This is great. I hope I win the contest.
- Moon:** Well, what do the people think of Coyote?
- People:** Coyote is a failure! He is much too slow and only looked around as he moved across the sky. He does not satisfy us.
- Moon:** Let us see what Woodpecker can do.
- Woodpecker:** I will try as daylight like my younger brother Yellowhammer. Surely I can satisfy the people.
- People:** *(Angry)* No you can't! There is even less light than Yellowhammer gave. You are a failure! Give up!
- Hummingbird:** Let me, Hummingbird, try. I can fly very fast.
- People:** *(Disgusted)* He gave some light but he travels **too** fast and the day is too short. He does not satisfy us either. Is there no one who can give us the right kind of light by day and by night?
- Narrator:** As each one tried as the light, the people became more and more discouraged. No one seemed to be quite right for either night or day. Finally, Moon and his younger brother Sun decided to enter the contest. They had been holding back, waiting to see who would attempt to give light. The people looked upon them as leaders and were eager to see what they could do.
- Sun:** Moon, you had best be the light that travels in the daytime. You are hot and bright.
- Narrator:** As soon as Moon rose in the morning, everything became hot. The water boiled and fire started everywhere.
- People:** Stop! Stop! We cannot stand this. It is **too** hot! If Moon travels every day, he will destroy everything. He does not satisfy us either.
- Moon:** Perhaps Sun would be more suitable to travel as light during the daytime. Give it a try, Sun.

**Narrator:** Sun rose slowly into the sky and traveled across it all day. He gave good bright sunshine and everything was pleasing.

**People:** He satisfies us!

**Sun:** Since Moon is too hot to travel by day, maybe he would be cooler at night. Moon, you had better try traveling at night and see how it will be.

**Narrator:** Moon made his trial at night. He rose early in the evening and shone with a cool frosty light. The people were satisfied.

**Narrator:** So it is today: the sun gives light by day and the moon gives light by night. Once a year the sun and moon will meet and that is the time we now call an eclipse. All year long we have warm sunlit days and cool frosty moonlit nights thanks to the contest held so many years ago.