

NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION FOR ALL RESOURCES

Partnership of IllumiNative and the National Indian Education Association



ILLUMINATIVE



Grade Level

3-5

Subject

Reading & Art

Lesson Title

Create Your Own Book: The Different Tales of Raven

Activity Description: In many cultures, especially Native American tribes, traditional stories contain characters who are usually animals and some of those characters are tricksters. This activity will highlight some of the different traditional tales of raven, a bird known for mischievous behavior. After reading, children have the opportunity to illustrate a raven story to create their own book or write an acrostic poem.

MATERIALS NEEDED

WiFi access (recommended)
Pencils
Crayons or colored pencils
Digital or print version of the [short story Raven Steals the Sun](#)
Read aloud of [Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest](#) by Gerald McDermott
Printable booklet "[Raven Stole the Sun](#)" or sheets of blank paper if printing is not available

STEPS

Raven is one of the great tricksters in many Native American stories, typically from tribes from the Pacific Northwest including Alaska. Sometimes raven is clever and helpful, and, sometimes, raven gets into trouble. Each tribe may have a different raven story. Read some of the stories below and then illustrate your own raven storybook:

Activity Steps:

1. Read this [short story "Raven Steals the Sun"](#) from the Eyak tribe in Alaska. As you read, think about words that describe raven.
2. Next, listen to this read aloud of [Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest by Gerald McDermott](#). What words can you add to your list to describe raven's character?
 - a. How was raven helpful to humans in this story?
 - b. What part of nature was this story used to explain traditionally?
3. Now, read the last story in this activity. On this webpage, scroll down to Step 2 and [read the story "Raven Stole the Sun."](#) This is the same story that you will illustrate for your own book.
 - a. Do you have any other descriptions of raven to add to your list?

Create Your Book:

1. Print the [booklet for "How Raven Stole the Sun."](#) If you cannot print this, then cut out your own pages from paper and create your own raven story to illustrate.
2. Using your crayons or colored pencils, draw pictures for each section of the story.
3. Then, cut the pages out and staple the pages along either the top or the right side. You can also glue them.
4. Read your story to your family and friends.

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Science

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Ancient Astronomy: Native American Star Stories

HELPFUL TIPS

Parents and caregivers: As children read trickster tales like these about raven, be sure to remind them that these are stories intended to teach about things that happen in nature or reveal the character of some of the animals that live in certain regions. While many times these tricksters are helpful, remind your child that these are not behaviors that he or she should follow or try.

If you are unable to print out the book to color, another activity that your child can do is an acrostic poem. This page provides a definition and [example of writing an acrostic poem](#). If you are not able to access that page, help your child follow these directions:

1. Think about all of the raven stories you have heard and make a list of at least five words that describe raven in these stories.
2. Vertically write the word R-A-V-E-N with each letter on its own line.
3. Next, use the letter on each line to start a word, phrase, or sentence that describes raven.
4. When finished, color or illustrate the poem to share with others.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Families and educators: Many cultures have trickster tales or stories such as fables that they used to teach lessons and share origin stories. For more stories or information on tricksters, follow the links below:

- To read short trickster tales and fables from around the world, access this document, [a collection of Fables & Trickster Tales](#)
- To learn about other tricksters, visit the page "[Have you ever heard a trickster tale?](#)" by CBC Kids

Activity Resources:

- "Raven Steals the Sun" by *Native Languages* <http://www.native-languages.org/eyakstory3.htm>
- Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest by Gerald McDermott read by JakesStoryTime on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FbLtc7dluU>
- Activity adapted from Layers of Learning: How Raven Stole the Sun <https://layers-of-learning.com/raven-stole-sun-native-american-raven-legend/>
- Printable booklet "How Raven Stole the Sun" from *Layers of Learning* <https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.254/b0d.061.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/How-Raven-Stole-The-Sun.pdf>

Additional Resources:

- "Acrostic Poem" .a resource by the Nashimiy School District <https://www.neshaminy.org/cms/lib6/PA01000466/Centricity/Domain/439/Early%20Man%204%20-%20HANDOUT%20CNN%20Acrostic%20Directions.pdf>
- Fables & Trickster Tales (a collection) <https://1.cdn.edl.io/CF1WHiKEIXCMegZlvjbBMpgSAQV4riC4DIHC8ilCxzAgk9gX.pdf>
- Have you ever heard a trickster tale?" by CBC Kids <https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/have-you-ever-heard-a-trickster-tale>