

Indigenous Stories of the Eclipse

In this lesson, students will explore the cultural significance of stories told by Indigenous Peoples to explain phenomena on Earth.

Grades: 3-5		Subject: SS
Essential Question(s)	How do you think hearing stories from Indigenous people can help us learn about their culture and history?	
Focus Standard(s)	D2.His.14.3-5: Explain how historical sources, including stories, can be used to study and understand the past.	
Learning Objective	Students will be able to explore how Indigenous cultures used storytelling to explain natural events.	
Materials/Resources	Indigenous Stories of the Eclipse	
Vocabulary	Indigenous: native, first to live in a place; celestial: related to space; culture: way of life	
Anticipatory Set	Begin by explaining that many Indigenous cultures pass down their history and beliefs through oral stories. Discuss why stories are important for understanding a group's history and culture.	
Mini-Lesson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read aloud the article <i>Indigenous Stories of the Eclipse</i>, pausing to discuss the differences between each tribe's version of the story. 2. After reading, ask students, "What do these stories show us about Native Americans and their way of life?" (connection with nature and the sky; used stories to explain events that didn't make sense) 	
Activity	Have students think about the differences in the stories they read, then imagine their own story about an astrological event. Students will create a story about what causes their event, using their own characters. They can draw a picture of their story and write a brief paragraph describing the story in their own words.	
Closure/Assessment	Have students share their pictures and stories with their classmates. Then, have them reflect on the importance of storytelling by asking, "How can stories teach us about the ways of life in different cultures?"	
Differentiation	Adjust lexile® levels as needed. Use accessibility and Read to Me features. Print copies of articles.	