

Title

Fallen Star: A Lakota Star Legend

Grade Level

3rd Grade/Library Class

Theme

Lakota Legends and how their impact can be felt today.

Duration

2 class sessions (2 weeks)

Goal

The students will be able to retell the Fallen Star legend and understand the impact this legend has on current events.

Objectives

Students will be able to

1. Retell the legend of Fallen Star
2. Make a connection between this story and the purchase of the Pe' Sla land in the Black Hills by the Oceti Sakowin.

South Dakota Common Core Standards

Reading Standard 2

Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.

South Dakota School Library Content Standards

2.5.3 The student will expand personal affinity for particular genres, authors, illustrators and series.

2.5.4 The student will recognize South Dakota authors and their work.

2.5.5 The student will access and understand multiple resources reflecting the multicultural heritage of SD, the US, and the world.

Cultural Concept

The concept of the role legends play in Native American Culture and how that impact continues to present day.

Cultural Background

The role of legends in Native American Culture was to explain occurrences in nature.

According to the aktalakota home page, "While cultures and customs varied, all Native American beliefs were rooted in a common belief...the universe was bound together by the spirits within all natural life of plants, animals, humans, water, air and earth."

With the continued challenges the Native Americans had to face in their existence the legends were a constant in their community. According to the website IndianLegend.com "While Native American culture has struggled to survive through centuries of displacement and assimilation, the stories and legends passed on from generation to generation refuse to die; this is perhaps due to their common, timeless message of peace and harmony with nature, which is now more relevant with each passing year."

Student Activities

Day 1

1. Have students take notes on what makes a legend
2. Show Dr. Howe (segment of Lakota Star Knowledge Video) telling the story of Falling Star.
3. Discuss with students why this is a legend. Review what makes a legend.
4. Discuss with students the purchase of Pe' Sla. Talk about the connection between the legend and the land purchase. Read article "Tribes reach 9 million Goal and Purchase Sacred Site of Pe' Sla."
5. Show Pe' Sla on Google Earth.

Day 2

1. Review what makes a legend.
2. Retell the legend of Fallen Star.
3. Have students in their table groups make 4 drawings that tell the story of Fallen Star. On the back of these drawings have students write why Pe' Sla is important to the Lakota people.

Resources

Note cards, Listening Skills, Smartboard, crayons and drawing paper. The video Lakota Star Knowledge Explorations of the Lakota Universe.

Assessment

Self Assessment and group evaluation over how they have retold the story of Fallen Star in their illustrations.

References

Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center and St. Joseph's Indian School. *Lakota Legend*. Retrieved from aktalakota.stjo.org

Google Earth

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Myths and Legends .(2006). *Teachers' Resources What are myths, legends and folktales?* Retrieved from myths.e2bn.org

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