



# ORANGE SHIRT DAY AND BEYOND

2023- 24 SUPPORTS FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

This guide supports Education for Reconciliation through inclusion of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit ways of knowing, historical perspectives, traditional games, dance, and song. This lesson embraces the rich and vibrant cultures of Indigenous people across Alberta and Canada. The lesson activates learning and thoughtful reflection about Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples.

## Storytelling

### Introduction

Storytelling is an integral part of FNMI cultures as cultures fully immersed in the oral tradition. Storytelling serves many purposes such as entertainment, the passing of knowledge, moral and ethical teachings, and a means of understanding the world around us. There are three major Storytelling genres within FNMI storytelling types. These are **trickster legends** – these legends revolve around a trickster character as the main character in legends integrating the other two genre; **creation legends** – these legends serve to explain the creation of elements throughout our physical world including the creation of the land; **star legends** – these legends tell of the creation or origin of celestial bodies such as the moon, sun and constellations.

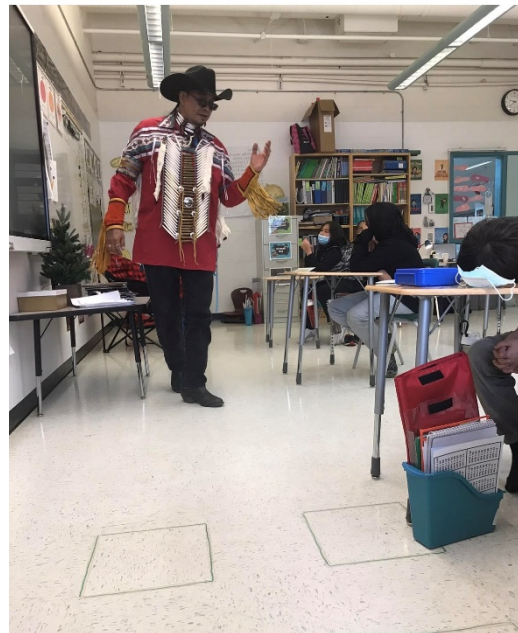
### Essential Questions

Why is it important to learn the legends and stories?

Would you consider storytelling an art? Can anyone be a storyteller?

What are some ways Indigenous youth can benefit from learning legends of various FNMI cultures?

How can storytelling connect us to reconciliation?



## Activity

**Creating a Legend:** Students can learn the components of story-writing through creating a legend in the form of a Creation Legend. Have students pick an interesting creature with a distinguishing feature (e.g., Beaver with its flat tail) and have students discuss and brainstorm possible ways that creature may have gotten that feature through a story. Have students create a legend of how their creature got their distinguishing feature!

**Reconciliation Connection:** Providing students the opportunity to learn about storytelling from different Indigenous communities across Alberta deepens their knowledge of other cultures and the understanding of how knowledge is passed within a culture rooted in oral tradition.

**Key Words:** legend, oral tradition, reconciliation,

**Themes:** historical teaching, passing of knowledge, intergenerational teachings, culture, language, oral history.

**Extensions:** Interview an Elder/Knowledge Keeper from a local community about legends that are local to the area. Identify which genre those stories belong to.

## Resources

[Muskwa and Muskosiy \(Jason BigCharles\)](#)



## Native American legends and folklore

<https://youtu.be/3ihi9ekX6IQ>

## A Collection of Legends

[Native American Legends \(Folklore, Myths, and Traditional Indian Stories\) \(native-languages.org\)](#)