

Guess Hoo's for Dinner

Rangers in the Classroom—Post-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 5th

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 1 hour

Standards Addressed:

- ° Writing:
2.1
- ° Listening and Speaking:
1.1, 1.2
- ° History and Social Science:
4.2.1

Introduction:

Thank you for joining us on an exciting adventure into the world of owls with our Guess Hoo's for Dinner program. We created this post-visit activity to review, reinforce and enrich your students' understanding of these unique creatures. Please refer to the program outline we provided during our visit to your class for additional sources of information. We hope you enjoyed the ranger visit and invite us back soon. Have fun!

Materials:

- ° Copies of story and worksheet (one per student)
- ° Pencils
- ° Scrap Paper

Instructions:

1. Read the following story together as a group.
2. Next, students will individually create their own owl legend that explains some sort of natural phenomena (for example, why there are shooting stars, why the moon goes through phases, why owls hoot, etc).
3. The legends should take place in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks.
4. Students should include all the elements of a story: setting, characters, conflict, resolution, etc. This is a chance for students to be creative and incorporate what they have learned from the classroom program.
5. The final draft of their folklore should go on the provided worksheet.
6. Ask students to share their legends aloud with the class.

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"American Indian Legend"

Many American Indian cultures have stories that have been passed down from many generations. Animals play an essential role in many of these folk stories. These stories often explain the natural world as viewed by the American Indians in the area. One such example comes from the Yokut Indians that once occupied the great San Joaquin Valley of California. Read this story and then follow directions on the next page.

How the Green Measuring Worm Brought Fire to the Wuk-chum'-nee Yokuts

Adapted from *California Indian Folklore*
Frank F. Latta

In the old days before the Indians came to the San Joaquin Valley, the old time bird and animal people had no fire to cook or keep them warm.

One day, the Eagle and his son the Prairie Falcon saw a light in the sky. Eagle called out to all of the people who were good climbers.

Good climbers soon gathered around. Among them were the Black Lizard, Ground Squirrel, Gray Squirrel, Ant, Wildcat and Green Measuring Worm.

Eagle said "I see a great light on that flat spot, some of you people climb up to get it".

So all of the climbing animals set out to get to the light. Wildcat was a good climber and climbed all the way to the top but could not get over the edge to the light. The Ground Squirrel, Gray Squirrel, Ant and Black Lizard all tried as well. Some could climb to the top, but none could make it over the edge to the light.

Finally, the Green Measuring Worm began to climb and said to himself "I will take a string with me so I can fasten myself so I will not fall". He climbed and climbed. He fell twice, but only swung back and forth from his string until he could reattach himself. When he got to the edge, he did not stop, but fastened his string as tightly as he could and climbed over the edge. He finally reached a bright rock that was making the light.

He climbed back down and the animal people saw that the rock was not fire, but could be used to make fire. The Black Bear tried and tried along with the Green Measuring Worm to make fire from the small rock, but he could not quite make it work. Then along came the Mountain Lion, who was one the Headmen in the area. Black Bear, with Mountain Lion's help, were finally able to make fire from the small rock.

And that is how the Green Measuring Worm brought fire to the San Joaquin Valley.

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“My Owl Legend”



Now that you have read a local Native American folk story, it is your turn to become a storyteller!

Create your own legend using owls as the main characters to explain a natural event. Your setting will be Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks. You can use your park map (or share one with a neighbor) to give you more details about the setting. Write your final draft below.


