

# INDIGENOUS STAR KNOWLEDGE: THE NIGHT SKY FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

Developed by: Canadian Geographic Education

## Introduction

Turtle Island (North America) is home to many different groups of Indigenous Peoples that have called the continent home since time immemorial. Stories of the stars and the night sky vary from community to community. These stories help build an understanding of the natural world and humans' place within it. The night sky had not only practical purposes, acting as a map, compass and calendar, but also had an important place in the cultures and spirituality of Indigenous Peoples.

## Activity

Using the resources below as a starting point, have students research star stories from Indigenous nations and communities across Turtle Island. Using the Storyboard (attached), students can organize their chosen sky story in a way that will help them to retell that story. Once the Indigenous Sky Story storyboard is complete, students are invited to create an artistic representation of this star story through an infographic, a poster, a comic, a story, a play, etc.

## Resources

### Esri StoryMap

Take your students on a journey across the continents as they explore the Can Geo Education [Esri StoryMap: \*Understanding the night sky: Star stories from around the globe\*](#). This resource will introduce students to different Indigenous cultures' and communities' understanding of and connection to the night sky.

### Websites:

- [University of Calgary Indigenous Skies](#): Highlights Indigenous sky stories of constellations and celestial bodies.
- [Native Skywatchers: Resources](#): Videos, articles, star charts and more about Indigenous astronomy. Some resources are free and some require purchase.
- [Ontario Science Centre: Indigenous Star Stories](#): For educators, watch this recording of a professional development session about Indigenous star stories.
- [Resource Guide for Canadian Aboriginal Astronomy \(2010\)](#)
- [Virtual Museum of Canada: The Amerindian Sky and The Inuit Sky](#): Learn about star stories from different Indigenous communities in Canada.
- [Canadian Space Agency: Indigenous Moon](#): This site explores the Indigenous moon and its connection to the turtle.

### Articles

- [Atchakosuk: Ininewuk Stories of the Stars](#) by Wilfred Buck: This article explores star stories of the Ininewuk (Cree).

### Videos:

- [Tipiskawi Kisik: Night Sky Star Stories](#)
- [Indigenous constellations; part-science, part-art, all-important](#) from the Weather Network

### Books:

- [Tipiskawi Kisik: Night Sky Star Stories](#) by Wilfred Buck
- [How the Moon Came to Be](#) by Leah Marie Dorion
- [Muin and the Seven Bird Hunters](#) by Prune Harris, Lilian Marshall, Murdena Marshall
- [Raven Brings the Light](#) by Roy Henry Vickers and Robert Budd

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## Indigenous Sky Story Storyboard

### Instructions

1. Find an Indigenous star story that you would like to retell.
2. Use this storyboard template to write down and draw important ideas in the story.
3. Create a poster, infographic, comic, story or play using your storyboard as inspiration.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of story: \_\_\_\_\_

Nation or community of origin: \_\_\_\_\_



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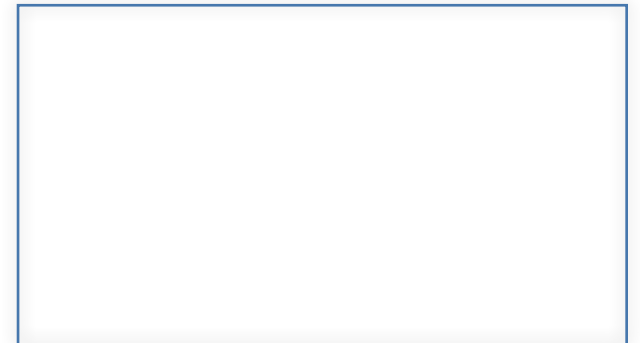
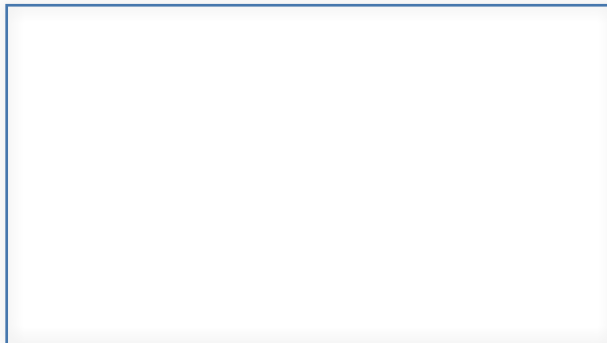
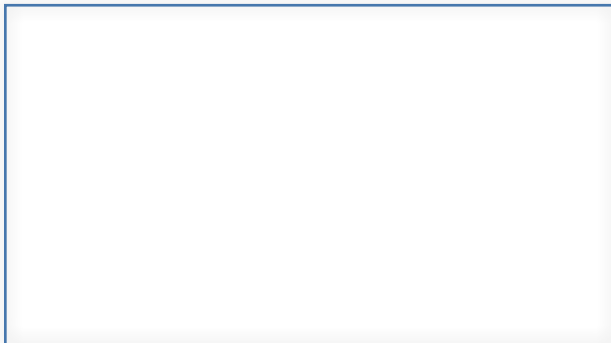
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