

Lesson Series: Aboriginal People and Astronomy

Learning Intentions:

- I can understand how Aboriginal people used stories to understand the solar system

Learning Outcomes:

Demonstrate an awareness of the special significance of celestial objects for aboriginal peoples.

Achievement Indicators:

Generate specific questions in response to an Aboriginal story focusing on celestial objects
Write their own stories, complete with picture on a celestial object (eg: how the moon came to be, why the sun is so hot).



Materials:

Skyteller DVD (certain sections) (Found in Aboriginal Astronomy Kit)

Blackline Masters

Learning Intention poster

Stories:

Lesson:

- 1) Introduce the learning intention.
- 2) Have students compile as a class the Journal sheet– what do we already know about the solar system?
- 3) Share with students the quote from the story “The woman who fell onto the Turtle’s back”
- 4) Think aloud– What does this make you think of? Turn and talk. Share out some of the ideas about what this might be about. What Questions? Connections? Inferences? Visualizations do you have?
- 5) Have students complete boxing activity with the turtle pictures. Students write questions that they might have around the turtle. This paper then gets passed to the next group, who can add questions that they have, or answer any of the questions, if they think that they can.
- 6) Explain about the use of oral storytelling vs. written record, and why there are no pictures for the story.
- 7) Share with students the Skyteller story of the Solar System– The Aboriginal Story and the Science story
- 8) Compare, contrast the two. Are there other creation stories that you know or have heard?
- 9) Who were these people who told these stories? Introduce the bead timeline.



Our Learning Intention:

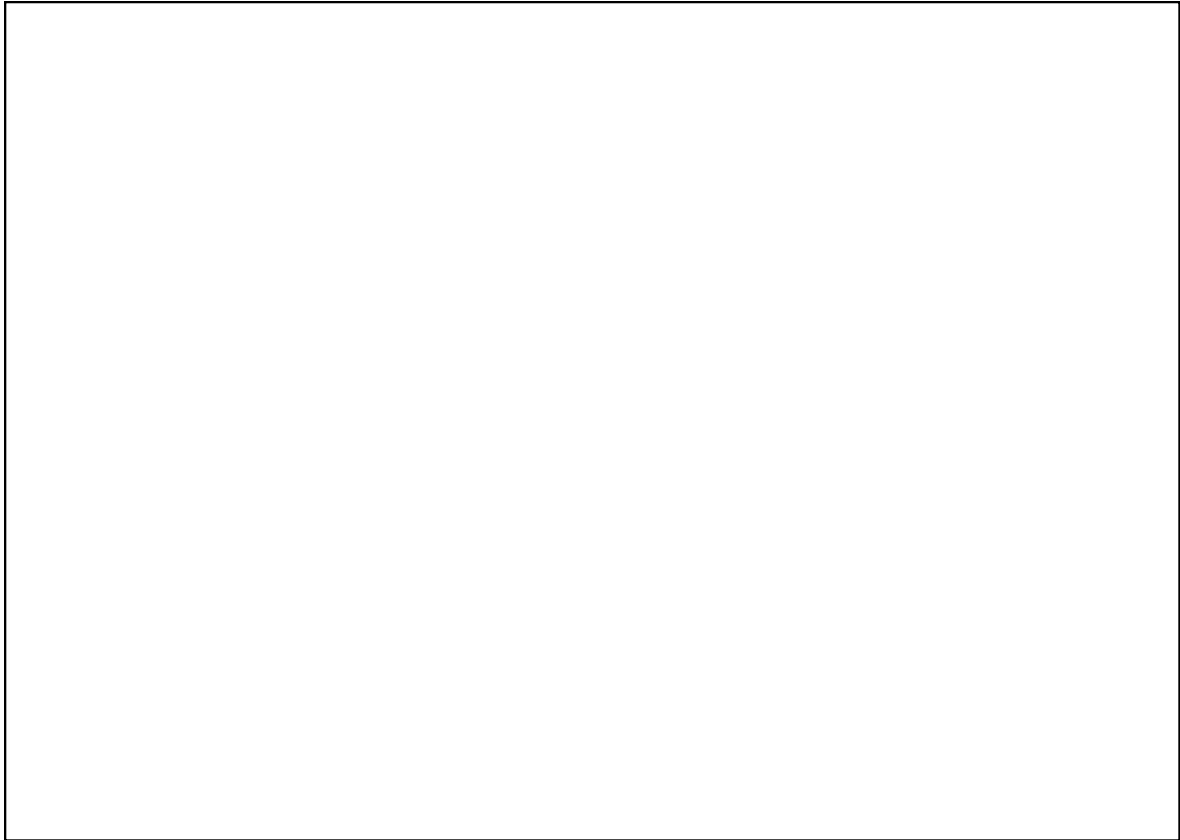
I can understand why day
and night are important to
Aboriginal people.

I can understand how
Aboriginal people explain
the earth.

Name: _____

My Journal for: Astronomy and Solar System

Use words, pictures and symbols to explain what you know about the Solar system, astronomy or Celestial Objects?



Down she fell into that deep, deep dark, and all around her was a sound like the soft shushing of a rattle. For a long time, she fell until she began to see brightness far below her. It was the blue gleam of water.

Right There

What are some celestial objects?

Think and Search

How did the Aboriginal people explain the things they saw in the world?

World and Me

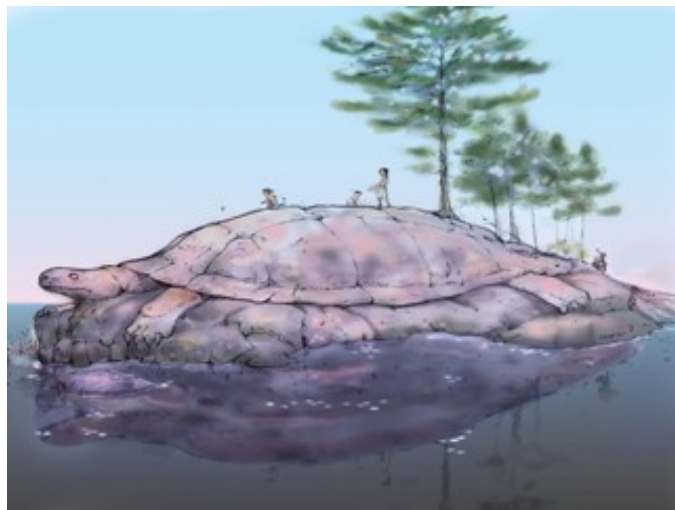
What do you know of stories that explain about objects in the sky?

On My Own

Why is it important to study other cultures?







Students can create through writing questions and answers with partners or small groups in order to explore topics. Here the students can write questions in a box and then pass to another r group who answer and/or ask new questions in the next outer layer of the box. Students initial their responses and questions. This can help teachers to track the students' thinking.

Jeff Wilhelm Inquiring Minds: Learn to Read and Write

Transforming Your Thinking

On First Thought:

Questions I have:

On Second Thought: