



Activities for *Napi Legends*

The Blackfoot legends (in the book *Napi Legends*) tell of the adventures Napi, the Blackfoot trickster, who taught lessons about life through his interactions with animals, Mother Nature, and others, as he travelled throughout southern Alberta.

The book was made possible through the contributions from Willie White Feathers (Aphsowatis) and Dr. Helen Many Fingers (Katainawaakii), with illustrations by Conrad Chief Body. Ninastako Cultural Centre (NCC) is proud to share these legends with you, because as White Feathers said, "These legends are most valuable to young people. Unless they are told in the classrooms and in textbooks, a great part of our culture, history, and language will be lost."

TEACHERS: You can use this collection of Activities in your classes, as discussion starters, as tasks in learning centres, or just as ideas for you to introduce NCC's book, *Napi Legends*. At the back of the book, you will find a Glossary of Blackfoot words used in the legends, with their translations.

Also, your students will enjoy the Puppet Legends of similar Napi adventures, presented on NCC's website, **free. Just click and download.**

Napi's Greatest Achievement

1. Have students talk about this vocabulary in context and offer a synonym:

survivor rescue lingered complimented

2. Point out that there are several words in these legends that have prefixes and suffixes added to them:

shiniest unsuccessful bravery dissatisfied
awakened wondering jumped desperation

Can the students find others? List them and discuss the effect of the prefix/suffix.

3. Have students compare the Biblical version of the flood with the Blackfoot legend. This is an opportunity to research other versions of the same event(s). These questions may help:

- a. How are the heroes (Napi and Noah) similar/different?
 - b. Are the time periods the same/different?
 - c. Which animals survived each flood?
 - d. What equipment do the heroes use to stay safe?
3. Which parts of the storylines are similar/different?

4. Napi's favourite animal was the muskrat. What are the students' favourite animals and why? Have students find or draw pictures of these animals and create a poster which answers these questions:

- a. Where does it live?
- b. What does it eat?
- c. What are its natural predators?
- d. Why is it their favourite?

5. Have students research the significance of the four directions in First Nations' culture. Have them research and illustrate the "Circle of Life" and explore how each quadrant of the circle affects their lives. Share.

The next set of activities are for The Return of Napi to the Homeland.